US puts NPA on new list of terrorist groups

STORY ON PAGE A2

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Kofi meets Elmo

NEW YORK—If only all conflicts could be resolved so easily.

United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan taped an appearance for the children's television show "Sesame Street" on Thursday, stepping in

KOFI/ A6

IN *Saturday* SPECIAL

- Dawn Zulueta is a delightful eyeful in 'The Price Is Right'
- Oscar actress field has no clear frontrunners
- Ryan Cayabyab is lone Asian among Onassis Awards laureates

ZULUETA

TALIBAN GOV'T FALLS

2 months after war began, focus shifts to hunt for Bin Laden

KABUL—The Taliban regime has finally collapsed two months to the day since the US-led anti-terrorism coalition launched attacks on Afghanistan on Oct. 7.

Anti-Taliban forces have also captured Osama bin Laden's main base in the Tora Bora mountains of eastern Afghanistan, but failed to find the Saudi-born militant, blamed for the Sept. 11 attacks that killed nearly 4,000 in the United States.

In the south, the besieged Taliban yesterday began surrendering Kandahar, their final bastion and birthplace, which would allow US forces to concentrate on hunting down Bin Laden.

"It seems that the final collapse of the Taliban is now upon us," said British Prime Minister Tony Blair, US President George W. Bush's closest ally in the war. "That is a total vindication of the strategy that we have worked out from the beginning."

Former Taliban envoy to Pakistan Mullah Abdul Salam Zaeef seemed to agree. Asked about the future of the movement, Zaeef said: "I think we should go home."

Bush launched the attacks after the Taliban refused to hand over Bin Laden.

The capture of the cave-riddled mountains of Tora Bora in the White Mountains south of Jalalabad came after a week of intensive fighting backed by heavy US air strikes against al-Qaida fighters, a military spokesperson said.

"The last and main base of Osama in Tora Bora was captured last night," Mohammad Habeel, spokesperson for the Northern Alliance, told Reuters, adding that there had been fierce resistance as the assault was pressed home.

"Our troops led by commander Hazrat Ali said that we have taken almost all of Tora Bora and its main caves. We have staged a mopping up operation to clear remaining parts of Tora Bora," Habeel said.

He said Arab family members, including women, had been cap-

TALIBAN/ A6

PREMATURE conclusions, Sen. Edgardo Angara chides Arroyo.

CAUGHT in the crossfire, Pacifico Marcelo, between opposition and administration senators.

PHOTOS BY ERIK ARAZAS

"TRIPLE hearsay, thrice removed," Sen. Joker Arroyo, blue ribbon committee chair chides the witness.

Senators clash over Gloria's accuser

BY ROCKY NAZARENO
AND CYNTHIA BALANA

THE PRESIDENT'S accuser finally took the witness stand before the Senate blue ribbon committee yesterday, but heated arguments among senators instead put the Senate itself in the hot seat.

Many of the questions asked during the marathon eight-hour hearing were drawn strictly according to party line.

The majority solons expressed open skepticism of businessman Pacifico Marcelo's testimony, while opposition senators took a favorable view. Some senators traded thinly veiled insults, prompting the solons themselves to raise concerns about the credibility of the proceedings.

Many of the clashes took place between Sen. Joker Arroyo, the committee chair, and Sen. Edgardo Angara, whom both administration and opposition senators dubbed during the hearing as the "de facto minority leader."

But an exchange between administration Sen. Renato Cayetano and opposition Sen. Robert Jaworski prompted the latter to say, "I am embarrassed to be in this Senate."

Carried live on cable television and radio, the intense and emotional hearing reminded many Filipinos of last year's impeachment trial, which started exactly a year ago yesterday.

During the hearing, Marcelo testified that, in a private meeting in Malacañang, President Macapagal-Arroyo demanded majority control of his company, Philippine Communications Clearinghouse Inc., in exchange for recalling her veto of PCCI's legislative franchise. But under questioning, the businessman conceded that the President never

SENATORS/ A4

Bringing the house down: Marcelo lied

(At yesterday's blue ribbon hearing, Pacifico Marcelo claimed under oath that the INQUIRER *fabricated a controversial quote which we attributed to him. He lied. Here's why. —Eds.)*

DID HE or didn't he? Did the man at the center of the telecoms clearinghouse scandal tell the INQUIRER: "I can bring this entire house down?"

Pacifico Marcelo yesterday branded the quote, and the headline that framed the story, a "clean fabrication." Answering a question from Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr., Marcelo said he even confronted the reporter who wrote the story, Carlito Pablo, a few days after the story came out. Pablo allegedly then told him that the quote was not originally in the story that he had filed.

Marcelo lied. He did say those words to the INQUIRER, in an interview held on Nov. 17 at a Pasig City hotel. And when he said them, he was clearly referring to the Macapagal administration. And he said those words in the presence not only of Pablo but also of city editor Gerry Lirio. Pablo accurately quoted Marcelo in his story.

It was the first time Pablo and Lirio had met Marcelo, after Pablo had written several stories about Marcelo's company, the Philippine Communications Clearinghouse Inc., based partly on phone interviews with Marcelo.

The statement wasn't in the form of a boast nor spoken as a threat. According to Pablo, Marcelo sounded like someone who believed he had a strong case.

When the story using the quote, a profile of Marcelo, finally saw print, on Nov. 27, the headline used to attract readers to the story was based on Marcelo's matter-of-fact

BRINGING/ A4

Tiglao foiled hostage talks, claims Lacson

BY CYNTHIA D. BALANA
AND DONA Z. PAZZIBUGAN

SEN. Panfilo Lacson yesterday accused President Macapagal-Arroyo's spokesperson of bungling an attempt by a Malaysian to negotiate the release of the Abu Sayyaf hostages without payment of ransom by making it public.

Rigoberto Tiglao, however, retorted that Lacson was endangering the lives of the hostages and the soldiers bent on rescuing them by trying to negotiate with the Abu Sayyaf bandits. He also said Lacson was violating the government's noransom policy.

On Thursday, Tiglao disclosed that Lacson met on Wednesday in Sabah with Zamboanga City-based businessman Li Peng We and Malaysian Sairin Karno, who both served as government negotiators in last year's Sipadan hostage crisis.

Tiglao surmised that Lacson could have been arranging for the payment of ransom to the Abu Sayyaf.

But Lacson told reporters yesterday that Tiglao was "a lapdog" who displayed "the mentality of a crab" in putting malice in his effort

TIGLAO/ A20

11 Abus slain in clash; GIs land in Basilan

BY JULIE S. ALIPALA
PDI Mindanao Bureau

ISABELA CITY, Basilan—Philippine crack troops scouring the jungles of this province for the Abu Sayyaf and its hostages killed at least 11 of the bandits and captured another in a clash in Barangay Makiri here around 6:40 a.m. yesterday.

Hours later, around 11 a.m., 17 US soldiers in full battle gear arrived on board a C-130 plane at the Edwin Andrews Air Base in Zamboanga City. Their arrival stirred speculation that the United States had decided to move to free American missionaries Martin and Gracia Burnham from their Abu Sayyaf captors.

But President Macapagal-Arroyo said later in the day in Malacañang that the Americans were to train a special military unit that had been going after the bandits.

11 ABUS/ A20

EDWIN BACASMAS

THE LAMENTATIONS come later, after the breezy smiles while on her way to the Palace Heroes Hall for her weekly news conference where she pours her heart out.

PRESIDENT'S LAMENT

Gloria hurting, alarmed

BY CARLITO PABLO

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo is hurting.

While another one of his accuser, businessman Pacifico Marcelo, was testifying before the Senate blue ribbon committee, the President devoted her entire opening statement at her regular press conference to her anguish over controversies hounding her and her husband Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo.

"It's easy to fabricate something bad about a person," the President said, adding that this is one of the undesirable traits of the Filipino. "If there is a group of three, and one left, the other two will most likely speak ill of that person," she said in the vernacular.

Marcelo has accused Ms Macapagal of demanding majority ownership of his telecommunication company allegedly in exchange for recalling the presidential veto of the congressional franchise for his firm.

Apparently referring to critics of her husband, the President said in Filipino: "I hope we follow the practice of our ancestors of keeping quiet when they could not say something good about someone, especially a private person."

"*Tigilan na natin ang tsismis kung tsismis lang, ang pag-imbento ng istorya, ang bulung-bulungan, ang pagkalat ng dumi* (Let's stop talking about rumors, inventing stories and spreading dirt)," Ms Macapagal said.

She invoked what she referred to as two golden rules, which, she said, would "guide us in the correct path."

"Do not do to others what you do not want others to do to you" she said. "Judge

GLORIA/ A20

Wedding bells to ring at Palace

BY TONETTE OREJAS
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—There will be a wedding in Malacañang next year. President Macapagal-Arroyo's eldest son, Pampanga Vice Gov. Juan Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo, 32, will definitely tie the knot next year.

This early, the groom-to-be can't conceal his excitement about the woman who has "made me so happy."

His bride-to-be is tall, beauteous and London-schooled Angela Montenegro, 27.

And it bothers Mikey not one bit that he is her second cousin. Angela's mother, Charito, is the first cousin of Mikey's father, Mr. Jose Miguel Arroyo.

"I consulted Monsignor Jun Mercado, my spiritual adviser before plunging into this. He advised me that the laws of the church and the state permit this. I guess being second cousins makes it easier because we know where our families come from," he said.

WEDDING/ A20

PWERA NA SILA!!!

Second FRONT PAGE

US puts NPA on new terror list

ABB, Pentagon Gang also among 39 'terrorist' groups

THE NEW People's Army, the Alex Boncayao Brigade and the Pentagon Gang have joined a new list of terrorist groups targeted for exclusion or deportation from the United States.

The American government took steps Thursday to allow the deportation or denial of visas to aliens linked to any of 39 foreign groups believed to have terrorist orientations.

State department Spokesperson Philip Reeker said the action was part of a "methodical approach to all aspects of the campaign to eliminate terrorism as a threat to our way of life."

The new Terrorism Exclusion List was compiled jointly by the US State and Justice departments under authority granted by Congress in the USA Patriot Act.

Aside from the NPA, ABB and the Pentagon Gang, the list of groups and their countries of location are as follows:

Al-Ittihad, al-Islami, Somalia; Al-Wafa, al-Igatha, al-Islamia and Jamiat al-Ta' awun al Islamiyya, Afghanistan; Asbat al-Ansar, Lebanon; Darkazanli Company, Germany; Salafist Group for Call and Combat, Algeria;

Islamic Army of Aden, Al-Hamati Sweets Bakeries, Al-Nur Honey Center and Al-Shifa Honey Press for Industry and Commerce, Yemen; Libyan Islamic Fighting Group, Libya; Makhtab al-Khidmat, Al-Rashid Trust, Jaysh-e-Mohammed and Lashkar-e-Tayyiba, Pakistan;

Army for the Liberation of Rwanda (ALIR), Rwanda; First of October Antifascist Resistance Group, Spain;

Continuity-Irish Republican Army, Orange Volunteers and Red Hand Defenders, Northern Ireland; Al-Ma' unah, Malaysia; Jayshullah, Azerbaijan; People Against Gangsterism and Drugs, South Africa; Revolutionary United Front, Sierra Leone;

Black Star, Anarchist Faction for Overthrow and Revolutionary Proletarian Nucleus, Greece; Red Brigades-Combatant Communist Party, Italy;

Turkish Hizballah and Jerusalem Warriors, Turkey;

Islamic Renewal and Reform Organization, Jordan;

Japanese Red Army, Japan; Jamiat ul-Mujaheedin and Harakat ul Jihad Islami, Kashmir, and The Allied Democratic Forces and The Lord's Resistance Army, Uganda.

The NPA, the military arm of the Communist Party of the Philippines, has been waging a 30-year rebellion in the Philippine countryside. Its offshoot, the ABB, a smaller specialized group of urban assassins, had infiltrated population centers in years past and waged a war of terror among the citizenry.

Both groups fall under the banner of the National Democratic Front, which is in suspended peace talks with the government.

The Mindanao-based Pentagon Gang, on the other hand, is a straightforward kidnap-for-ransom gang preying on foreigners and locals alike. It is believed to be holding Italian priest Fr. Guiseppi Pierantoni in the hinterlands of Sulu.

The US state department said Thursday most of the groups were already on other US lists of "terrorist organizations" and are subject to financial controls, but were not specifically subject to US visa restrictions.

"By designating these groups, Secretary of State Colin Powell has strengthened the United States' ability to exclude supporters of terrorism from the country or to deport them if they are found within our borders," Reeker said in a statement.

"We will continue to expand the list as we identify and confirm additional entities that provide support to terrorists," the statement added.

The new list is the fourth US government roster of "terrorist organizations" and adds to the confusion about what restrictions apply to which groups.

The other lists are of "foreign terrorist organizations" (FTOs), a Treasury Department list of 153 entities subject to tight financial controls and to which the Abu Sayyaf Group belongs, and a State Department list of "other terrorist groups," which are not subject to legal measures.

The new designation introduces visa restrictions for some of the "other terrorist groups" such as the Kashmiri groups Lashkar-e-Tayyiba and Jaish-e-Mohammed and the Irish groups Orange Volunteers and the Red Hand Defenders. ***With AP and Reuters reports***

Satur warns Gloria peace talks in peril

By Juliet L. Javellana

BAYAN Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo urged President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday to reject the inclusion of the New People's Army in a new list of terrorist organizations compiled by the United States.

Ocampo warned the President that if she agrees with the US Patriot Act of 2001—which lists 39 organizations as terror groups and bars their entry into the US—she would effectively be closing the door to peace talks with the communist-led National Democratic Front.

"The Macapagal administration has a policy of holding peace negotiations with the NDF. It also has a policy of not negotiating with terrorists, so there will be a conflict of policies here if she agrees with the US list," Ocampo, former NDF spokesperson, said.

"If she accepts it, she would be closing the door to the peace process," Ocampo added.

Ocampo said it appears the Macapagal administration had made a "tacit agreement" with the US on the inclusion of the NPA in the new terrorist list following her visit to Washington last month.

He said the NDF, whose leaders are in exile in Utrecht, the Netherlands, would reject their description as terrorists.

Ocampo said that having been in the revolutionary movement, he knows that the "orientation of the NPA is very different" from that of the Abu Sayyaf Group or the Pentagon Gang, both of which are also on US terrorist lists and are involved in kidnap-for-ransom.

The other Filipino group included in US lists is the Alex Boncayao Brigade, which splintered from the NPA a long time ago.

OCAMPO

Dante Ang, Pagcor execs sued

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo's controversial publicist, Dante Ang, is again in hot water.

Ang and officials of the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation are facing charges before the Ombudsman's Office for allegedly refusing to refund about P100 million to private operators of jai-alai off-fronton betting stations.

The complaint was filed by the operators grouped under the Jai-alai Off-fronton Operators Association (JOOA).

The operators claimed that Ang, who is a member of the Pagcor board, and the Pagcor officials had refused to refund their expenses for putting up betting stations even after Ms Macapagal had ordered a complete shutdown of jai-alai operations.

The Ombudsman Administrative Adjudication Bureau (AAB), after studying the charges, said it found probable cause to warrant the indictment of Ang for violating Republic Act 6713, known as the Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees.

Aside from Ang, those included in the complaint were Pagcor president and chief operating officer Efraim Genuino, and his two board members—(Ret.) Gen. Domingo Calajate and former immigration commissioner Manuel Roxas.

AAB director Mary Susan S. Guillermo on Nov. 8 issued an order for the respondents to submit their counter-affidavits within 10 days.

But so far only Genuino has submitted a counter-affidavit.

Guillermo said the Ombudsman's office was now preparing to order the respondents to answer the criminal complaint for graft.

The P100 million represented the franchise fee (P300,000 for every operator), cost of improvement, rentals, utilities and equipment and manpower expenses of about 51 jai-alai operators in Metro Manila. *Michael Lim Ubac*

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GMA: Nur deported soon

BY DONA Z. PAZZIBUGAN

"NOT very long now," President Macapagal-Arroyo said yesterday when asked when rebel leader and former ARMM governor Nur Misuari will be deported by Malaysia to the Philippines.

Ms Macapagal said Philippine authorities are preparing for Misuari's return and detention when he is deported on a mutually agreed upon date with Malaysia.

She said Misuari would be charged with rebellion for allegedly instigating the Nov. 19 attack in Jolo, Sulu, that killed at least 113 people.

The President, though, admitted she wants Misuari to remain in Malaysia for the time being, but she did not want to "burden" Malaysian Prime Minister Mohamad Mahathir with him.

Mahathir said Thursday Malaysia would have to "rethink Misuari's status" if the Philippine government refuses to take him back. He said his prolonged stay in Malaysia could "sour" his country's relations with the Philippines.

"I'm very grateful to Prime Minister Mahathir because of his really all-out cooperation with the Philippines regarding Misuari and other terrorist threats. I want to make sure Malaysia is not burdened by the support it is giving," Ms Macapagal said during her weekly press conference.

She said Malaysian authorities were still interrogating Misuari to see if he violated any of their laws.

"At the end of the interrogation, I suppose, the Malaysian government will decide if they have a case against him or if they would rather send him back," she said.

Philippine authorities are reportedly considering two sites to hold Misuari. One is the Philippine Army headquarters at Fort Magsaysay in Nueva Ecija and the other is the detention facility in Sta. Rosa, Laguna, that was especially built for ousted President Joseph Estrada and his son Jinggoy.

Misuari was arrested in Malaysia on Nov. 24, days after his followers attacked military outposts in Jolo resulting in the deaths of 113 persons.

On Nov. 28, his followers clashed with the military in Zamboanga City, resulting in at least 23 deaths. After the clash, the renegades took over a hundred residents hostage in order to bargain their way out of a military cordon.

Misuari is believed to be in a Sabah jail and Philippine officials have asked Malaysia to let a Filipino diplomat visit him, Agence France Presse reported.

The visit would be the first public step taken by both countries in determining the fate of the guerrilla leader-turned-governor, the report said.

Filipino ambassador to Kuala Lumpur Jose Brillantes "has a standing request" to visit Misuari, who was arrested for illegal entry on Nov. 24, foreign department spokesperson Victoriano Lecaros said.

The request "will be considered by the Malaysian authorities, and normally we do grant visits by embassy representatives," Malaysia's ambassador-designate to Manila Mohamad Taufik told reporters.

But Presidential adviser Eduardo Ermita said that Manila and Kuala Lumpur have reached an understanding over the Misuari case.

Manila would take back Misuari once all legal procedures have been completed, he said, without elaborating. *With an AFP report*

Jinggoy rushed to Makati Med; Erap, Loi celebrate 42nd year

BY VOLT CONTRERAS AND ALCUIN PAPA

THE JAILED ex-mayor of San Juan, Jinggoy Estrada, was rushed to the Makati Medical Center at 5 p.m. yesterday after he complained of chest pains and shortness of breath.

Lawyers of Jinggoy, the son of ousted ex-president Joseph Estrada and his co-accused in plunder cases before the Sandiganbayan, asked the court to allow his transfer to the MMC from the Veterans Memorial Medical Center in Quezon City, where he and his father are being detained.

Dr. Lorenzo Jocson, the Estrada family physician, immediately dispelled speculations that Jinggoy had had a heart attack or that his ailment might have been caused by the previous night's feasting.

On Thursday night, the senior Estrada and his wife, Sen. Luisa "Loi" Ejercito, marked their 42nd wedding anniversary with a Mass and dinner at their hospital detention suite.

What was described as a private affair was attended by about 50 guests, comprising family members, relatives and close friends.

There was no formal program although someone played the piano and red wine was served, one source said.

The suite was bereft of any Christmas decor, the source added.

The last time the Estradas marked their wedding anniversary was in Malacañang on the eve of the deposed leader's impeachment trial last year.

Jocson said Jinggoy did not drink any liquor at the party and only had a "regular" dinner, adding that the young Estrada was already complaining of chest pains as early as Thursday morning.

The Sandiganbayan gave its verbal consent to the detainee's transfer to the VMMC.

Jinggoy, who has undergone previous tests for a heart condition, arrived at the MMC under heavy guard together with his mother and wife, Precy. Waiting at the hospital to welcome him was his close friend, actor Rudy Fernandez.

The patient looked weak and had to be helped out of a white Toyota Land Cruiser. He was clutching what looked like prayer books and a rosary and covered his face with a blanket when he was approached by reporters. He refused to answer questions.

"We don't know yet what is wrong but we will find out," Precy told reporters, adding that her husband was able to talk.

Interviewed shortly before leaving the VMMC with Jinggoy, Jocson ruled out the possibility that his patient had a heart attack. He said more tests would have to be conducted.

He did not say if his patient would be confined at the MMC but some luggage were seen being unloaded.

A few minutes later, Jinggoy's brother Jude arrived but also refused to talk to media.

Jinggoy has been confined twice before at the MMC for his heart condition, a fact which his lawyers have used as a ground for asking the court to keep him under house arrest.

The Estrada anniversary celebration, declared off-limits to the press, started with an early evening Mass followed by a buffet dinner.

Nida's daughter sees NBI

THE DAUGHTER of murdered actress Nida Blanca yesterday executed a sworn statement at the National Bureau Investigation regarding the financial affairs of her mother.

Investigators also interviewed Blanca's personal accountant, an NBI source said.

The source said Katherine Jones Torres was interviewed for several hours but she refused to talk when the agents asked about her stepfather, Rod Strunk.

As of press time yesterday, investigators had yet to finish interviewing Blanca's accountant, Catherine Alba.

Torres was accompanied by her lawyer, Harriet Demetriou, a former chair of the Commission on Elections.

"I want to see this thing through," Torres told reporters during a break.

The source said the interviews were meant to help determine the real motive for Blanca's murder.

NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco said the other day that the bureau was looking at a quarrel over "property and money" as the most probable motive.

Ric Diaz, the spokesperson for the investigation, said actress Gina Pareño also has yet to finish giving her sworn statement. *Philip C. Tubeza*

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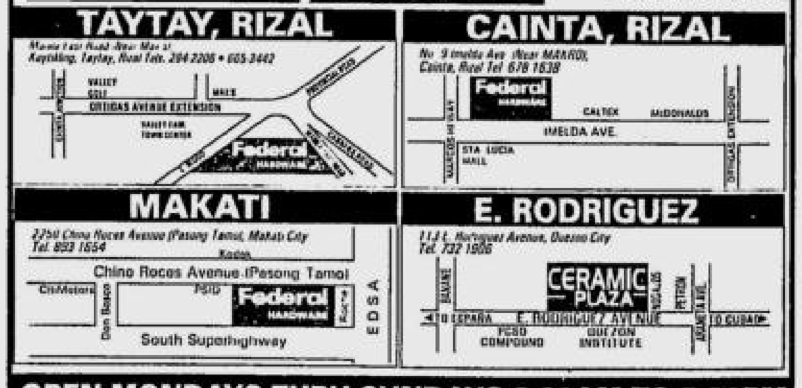

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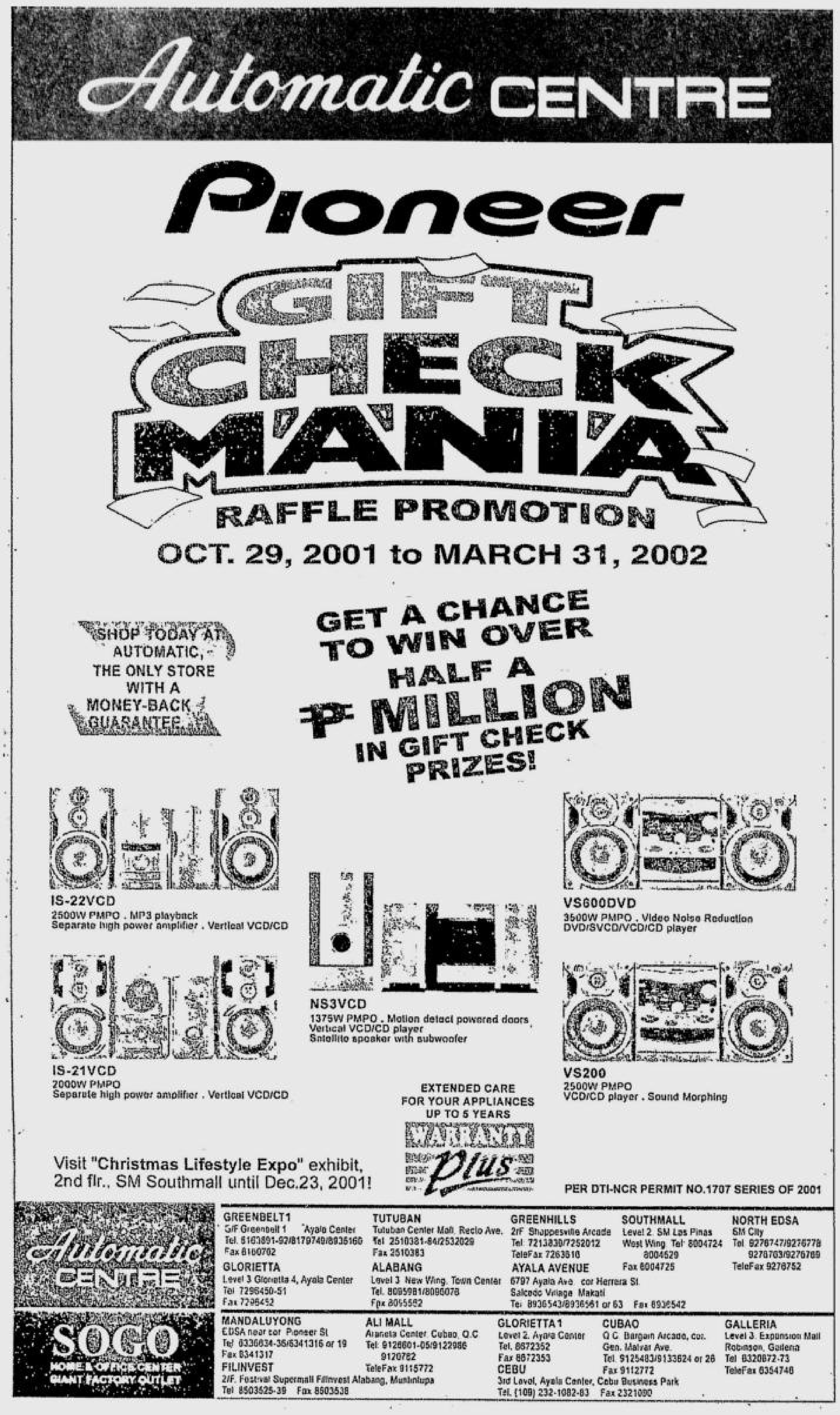

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Senators clash over Gloria's accuser

(From page A1)

asked him outright for majority control.

In his 12-page, 66-paragraph affidavit, Marcelo had categorically said that the President wanted 51 percent of PCCI. But at the hearing, Marcelo became uncertain about what the President actually meant. "I cannot speculate, your honor," he said.

He added that he was not sure whether the President was referring to her own private group or the government itself.

At the Palace, Ms Macapagal said Marcelo's allegations of a presidential shakedown were untrue. "These are lies," the President said. She admitted having talked with Marcelo in Malacañang last August "upon his request" but not to obtain control of PCCI.

During the hearing, Marcelo failed to recall the exact date of the meeting, initially suggesting Aug. 18 until opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson told him the President's dinner with the Philippine Military Academy's Class of 1971, which Marcelo said was the reason the President ended their private meeting, took place on Aug. 16.

Senate fireworks

The first acrimonious exchange occurred when, coming in late to the hearing, Angara objected to the pre-agreed arrangement limiting senators' questions to one minute.

But Arroyo cut Angara off, reminding him that it was not proper for a senator to come late and then question what the other senators had agreed on.

"You came in late, then you object," Arroyo said.

"This committee is not owned by you," Angara retorted.

Sen. Francis Pangilinan brought the first clash to a stop when he persuaded Arroyo to accept Angara's proposal for longer and less structured questioning under Lacson's earlier proposal calling on the committee to exercise "flexibility."

Several times during the hearing, Angara chided Arroyo for trying to force the committee to reach a premature conclusion.

Triple hearsay

At one point in the hearing, Arroyo offered an outline of Marcelo's testimony, using his colleagues to point out that "'the President was far from" wanting to take control of PCCI in a private capacity.

He said that Marcelo had filtered what the President said, allegedly an attempt to take over control of PCCI, through demands reportedly made by Presidential Legal Adviser Avelino Cruz but coursed through lawyer Jesse Manalo.

"'What you are saying is that (the demand made by the President) is three persons removed,'" Arroyo said.

Marcelo had said that when he met with Ms Macapagal, she had asked him if he had already talked to Cruz. Marcelo took this question to mean that Ms Macapagal was merely affirming what Manalo had already told him. In his affidavit, Marcelo had said that Manalo relayed to him an offer allegedly made by Cruz that the veto could be recalled if he gave up "'30 percent ownership of PCCI for free and 21 percent at a premium."

"'(But the) President never told you that, *dumaan muna sa ibang tao* (it passed through other people)," Arroyo told Marcelo.

Cayetano asked Marcelo if Manalo had told him who would own the 51-percent stake, but Marcelo said he could not give a definite answer.

"'I don't know where (the 51 percent) would go," Marcelo told Cayetano.

Marcelo added that it was only his "impression" that the offer came from the President because this was coursed through Cruz then Manalo.

"That's triple hearsay, thrice removed," Pangilinan later said after the hearing.

Pangilinan said it was possible that Manalo was acting on his own, not with the authority of either Cruz or the President.

But Manalo debunked Marcelo's claim that he had relayed the offer from Cruz to the PCCI executive.

"Preposterous, downright false," Manalo said in his statement in reaction to Marcelo's claim.

Manalo testified that the only time he was consulted by Marcelo about the PCCI's franchise was on June 15 when he was asked by Victor Madriaga, a personal friend, to meet with the PCCI executive.

They met at the San Mig bar at the Alabang Town Center.

"They wanted me to interpret the denial of (the PCCI) franchise and I said there was no way you can recall (the veto), unless you get two-thirds of both Houses to overturn it," Manalo said.

He also denied having close ties with Cruz other than being also a member of the Sigma Rho fraternity.

Palace pressure

Answering questions from Lacson, Marcelo revealed that persons close to Malacañang had been pressuring his associates and employees "to turn their backs" on him.

He identified Presidential Assistant for Special Concerns Ower Angal, lawyer Pancho Villaraza, Buboy Macapagal and Bobby Ang as among those convincing persons close to him to issue statements against him.

He said this was the same reason why eight persons who used to be his associates filed affidavits with the committee disputing his accusations against the President.

"This is not a numbers game," Marcelo told Arroyo.

In his testimony, Jonathan Ojano, vice president for government of International Consultancy Group Inc., another Marcelo company, alleged that Marcelo received P80 million from Angara to produce his allegations against the administration.

Ojano said the P80 million was part of the P200-million "destabilization fund" of the opposition.

But a stern Angara noted that it could not be established that Ojano "had a special relationship with Marcelo, enough for the latter to confide to him such sensitive information" such as a P200-million destabilization fund.

Angara also said Ojano "was very evasive" with his statements.

Angara and Lacson tried to establish that Ojano was not even an employee of Marcelo's.

Marcelo dared Ojano to show any voucher to show that he had received any salary from him.

Arroyo ordered Ojano to return on Monday to show proof that he had been employed by Marcelo.

Made-up stories

In an interview after the President's press conference, Cruz accused Marcelo of "making up stories," describing his testimony as "a fabrication."

When asked about Manalo, Cruz said: "He's not from my staff. He's not from my former law office."

"I have not talked to him (Manalo) about anything remotely connected to this telecommunications franchise," Cruz also said.

Cruz justified the President's veto of the PCCI franchise, saying Marcelo's concept for a telecommunications clearinghouse was not considered necessary in the industry.

The PCCI was originally intended to serve as an access center for all telecommunications networks.

"The telecommunications companies are saying that it's not needed because they are interconnected already," Cruz said.

Cruz also said that even Marcelo's former business associates and staff are belying the businessman's claim that President Macapagal and people identified with her sought to take over PCCI.

The committee chairman remarked that Marcelo had no one to corroborate his account, remarking that "the issue here is really your word against the word of the president."

The senators also presented depositions from three of Marcelo's business partners, denying his account.

"I don't know why they issued a statement," Marcelo said, adding "my meeting with the President was a one-on-one meeting and they were not privy to it."

Arroyo adjourned the marathon eight-hour hearing at around 6:30 p.m. and ordered all witnesses to return on Monday. ***With a report from Carlito Pablo and AFP***

Bringing the house down: Marcelo lied

(From page A1)

statement: "I can take entire Macapagal government down."

The amplification of the meaning of "house" was necessary because otherwise the headline wouldn't have made immediate sense, but it was strictly based on the clear meaning of Marcelo's statement—a meaning evident to both Pablo and Lirio at the time the words were said.

On the day the story came out, a Marcelo associate called Pablo to complain that the headline was rather strong. Correctly, Pablo answered that the quote in the story was accurate and that it was the editors' responsibility to write headlines. The editors write headlines based on the news report.

Some time after, Marcelo raised the same point in a phone conversation with Pablo.

Marcelo said the story made him look "*masyadong matapang*" (too brave) and that in subsequent stories, he was already being referred to as the guy who "boasted" he could bring the administration down.

Pablo then told Marcelo that his associate had already brought the matter up. In that conversation, Pablo recalled, Marcelo sounded peeved ("*nagtatampo*") because he had given the INQUIRER open access since the start.

Surprising statement

Marcelo made the denial under oath after Magsaysay told Marcelo that he was "surprised by your statement that you would bring down the administration."

"Can you tell if you were misquoted or were you serious in wanting to bring down and what prompted that?" Magsaysay asked.

Marcelo then said it was not his statement and that, "in fact, I confronted the reporter" about the story.

He said Pablo told him that "he submitted the story (but) it came out different."

"That's why (Pablo) asked me if I could forgive him for that," he said.

He added that, "during an interview with (cable television channel) ANC, I denied that I (had) issued that statement."

"That's clean fabrication," Marcelo maintained. ***With a report from Rocky Nazareno***

Yorac wants COA to audit coco levy funds

By Donna S. Cueto

THE PRESIDENTIAL Commission on Good Government wants the Commission on Audit to examine and verify the coconut levy funds, consistent with the government's position that these are public funds.

PCGG chair Haydee Yorac said there should be a separate audit of the coco levy, aside from the requested private audit of the funds.

"Consistent with the (government's) position that these are public funds, there must be an auditing by the COA," she said on Thursday.

"We are prepared not for a joint audit but for separate audits. They can have their auditors and then the government should have its own," she explained in a press conference.

This way, Yorac said the government could "trace with precision the path that these funds took—from the time that they were collected, up to the time that they are invested, up to now."

Yorac said the Supreme Court in its ruling in 1996 described the coco levy funds as funds "imbued with public interest."

"Unless it is demonstrated satisfactorily that they have legitimately become private funds, they must *prima facie* and by reason of the circumstances in which they were raised and accumulated, be accounted for," she said, quoting from the high tribunal ruling issued in 1996.

Yorac said that at the very least, at the time when the coco levy was collected, they were "public funds."

She noted that the "PCGG in the past was not as enthusiastic about pressing for the resolution" of the coco levy cases.

Noting that it would take the present PCGG two years to complete presentation of evidence on the coco levy cases, Yorac suggested that the government "make these cases priority cases."

The Bishops-Businessmen's Conference was set to meet last night with Yorac and Danilo Coronacion, the head of the Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA).

BBC chair Jose Concepcion Jr. said he and his co-chair Bishop Ramon Villena had called the meeting.

Also set to attend the meeting at the Club Filipino in San Juan were members of the multi-sectoral task force on the coco levy led by former Quezon Rep. Wigberto Tañada, government officials and various representatives of coconut farmers.

"It is important that we bring together all the groups concerned so that there will be a unified position for the benefit of the coconut farmers," Concepcion said in a statement.

He said that the BBC's involvement with the coco levy issue dates back to August 1998 when the group had a dialogue with the then newly elected President Joseph Estrada.

Concepcion said that in the past three-and-a-half years, the groups involved in the coco levy issue have drawn up 35 draft executive orders on the coco levy, all of which were the result of discussions and negotiations in the then Estrada Cabinet.

But the Executive Order 313, which Estrada signed, did not reflect the agreements reached by the multi-sectoral task force and government representatives, Tañada said.

Other personalities set to attend the meeting were Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Montemayor; former Congressman Oscar Santos, national chair of the Coconut Industry Reform Movement (COIR); Vicente Fabe, COIR national vice chair; Efren Villaseñor, national chair of the Pambansang Koalisyon ng mga Magsasaka at Manggagawa sa Niyugan (PKSMMN); Romeo Royandoyan, executive director of the Philippine Peasant Institute; and legal counsels Mario Ongkiko and Camilo Sabio.

Meanwhile, Villaseñor who represents some of the coconut farmers' groups pushing for compromise settlement on the P50-billion worth of levy funds lodged in San Miguel Corp., asked Yorac to account for P1 billion that the PCGG allegedly took from the coco levy shares in 1990.

Villaseñor said the P1 billion represented the PCGG's 3.14 percent arbitration fee in the compromise agreement for the purchase by the Andres Soriano III group of the 175,160,000 shares in the SMC in 1990 during the Aquino administration.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Saturday, December 8, 2001
Immaculate Conception

1st Reading:	*Gen 3:9-15, 20*
2nd Reading:	*Eph 1:3-6, 11-12*
Gospel:	*Lk 1:26-38*

In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth. He was sent to a young virgin who was betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the family of David; and the virgin's name was Mary.

The angel came to her and said, "Rejoice, full of grace, the Lord is with you." Mary was troubled at these words, wondering what this greeting could mean.

But the angel said, "Do not fear, Mary, for God has looked kindly on you. You shall conceive and bear a son and you shall call him Jesus. He will be great and shall rightly be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the kingdom of David, his ancestor; he will rule over the people of Jacob forever and his reign shall have no end."

Then Mary said to the angel, "How can this be if I am a virgin?" And the angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore, the holy child to be born shall be called Son of God. Even your relative Elizabeth is expecting a son in her old age, although she was unable to have a child, and she is now in her sixth month. With God nothing is impossible."

Then Mary said, "I am the handmaid of the Lord, let it be done to me as you have said." And the angel left her.

Commentary:

Our world has its hands so stained with blood, either by acts of commission or omission, that sometimes we are not happy to discover that one of us is indeed "immaculate". We are tempted to think how nice it would be if we were all in cahoots, than have someone, an innocent one, who will remind us of our sins; the blood we have in our hands is not something "natural", but the result of our actions. Mary is the Immaculate one who reminds us that we are also called to be "holy beyond reproach" before God through love. It is not yet late for us to retake the reins of our lives and begin life anew.

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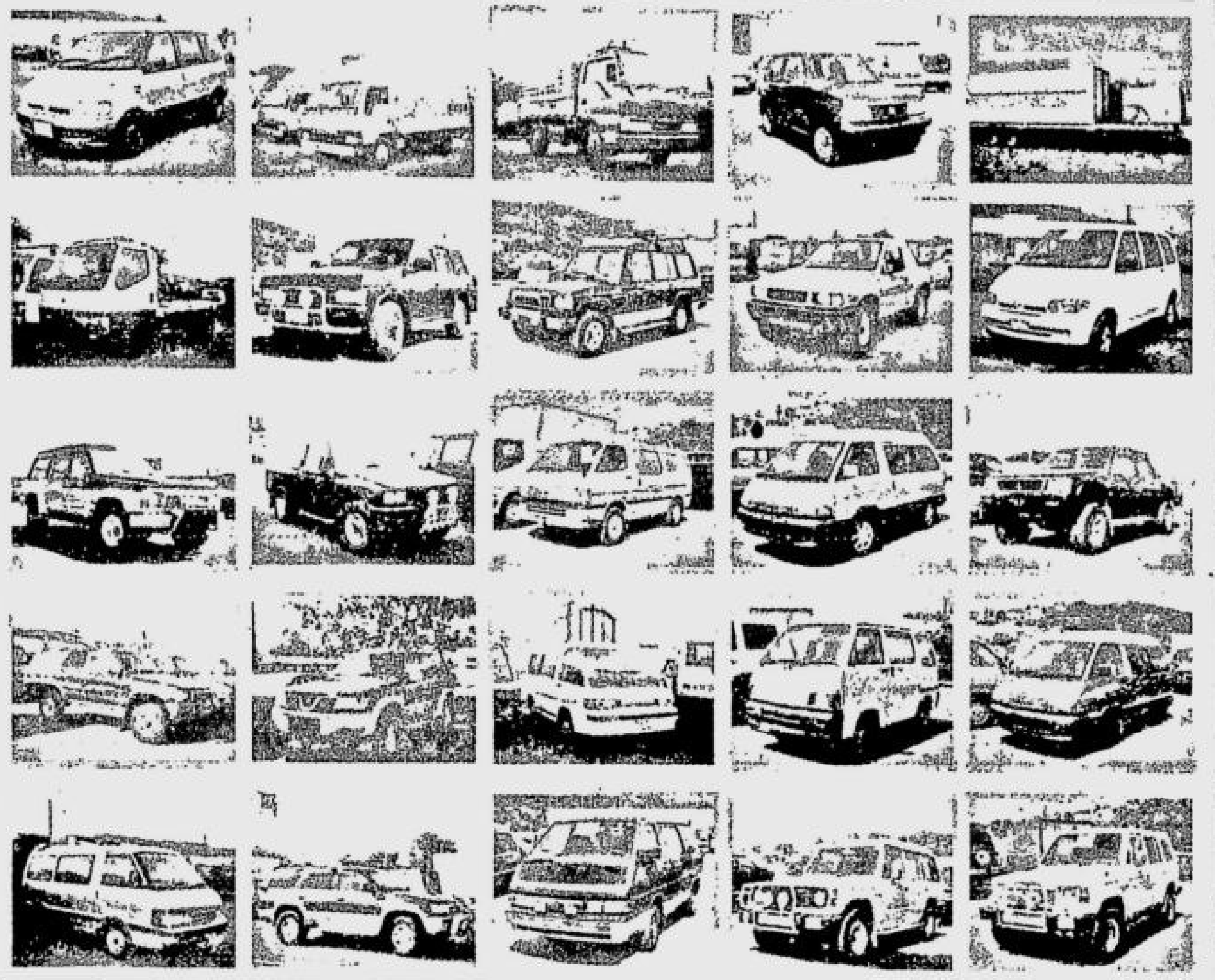

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For months now, the campaign to restore peace and order in Basilan has taken its toll in the lives, homes and livelihood of those who live there. Amidst this hostile environment, it is the children who suffer the most. They are faced with a very uncertain future.

The Philam Foundation, in partnership with the Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP), is appealing to your kind hearts to support the Aid for Basilan Children (ABC) Fund Drive. We hope to raise funds for the educational support of the children in Basilan. With your donation, we can help provide school materials, nutritious meals and transportation fare so that they can go to school the whole year round.

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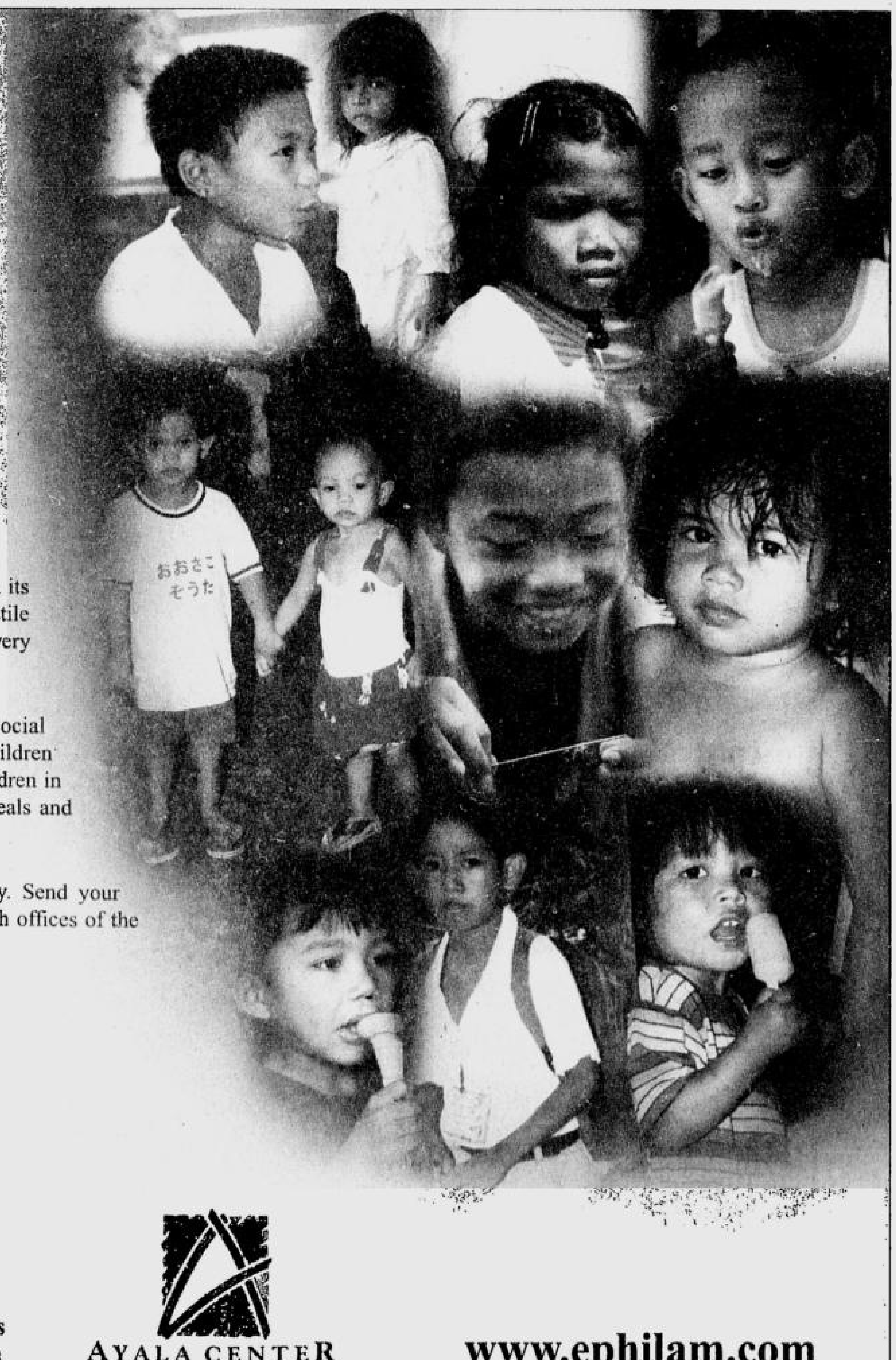

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Taliban gov't falls; focus shifts to Bin Laden

(From page A1)

tured, along with weapons and vehicles, but there was no sign of Bin Laden.

"Osama was not in Tora Bora during the past days of fighting and if he had been, he has probably slipped into Pakistan," Habeel said.

In Washington, US officials said al-Qaida fighters were believed operating from five to 10 cave complexes at Tora Bora. Officials suspect Bin Laden is in that area but also are on alert for his presence in the south around Kandahar.

US officials said B-52s had pounded the road between Kandahar and the Pakistani border to prevent Taliban fighters and their allies in al-Qaida from fleeing. Scores of people have been reported killed or wounded.

A Pakistani border official said Taliban forces were in control of the border town of Spin Boldak on Friday but surrender talks were under way.

The handover of Kandahar was agreed on Thursday in negotiations between the Taliban and Hamid Karzai, the leader of Afghanistan's new interim government.

Karzai slightly wounded

Slightly wounded in the face and head by Wednesday's "friendly fire"—an American bomb dropped by a B-52 that killed three US soldiers and several of his own troops, Karzai said the Taliban also agreed to give up provinces surrounding Kandahar which had remained under their control.

HAMID KARZAI: Interim government leader AP

The Taliban never held sway over all Afghanistan, but before US bombing began, the militant militia held 90 percent of the country.

Under the withering US air attacks in support of the Northern Alliance, the Taliban abandoned most of their ground, retreating to Kandahar and neighboring provinces.

The Pakistan-based Afghan Islamic Press (AIP) said Taliban fighters began handing their weapons to a commission of tribal elders, Islamic scholars and mujahideen commanders in the city where the Islamic militia began a march to power seven years ago.

The AIP had no immediate word on the fate of Taliban supreme leader Mullah Mohammad Omar or his top aides.

The Taliban on Thursday demanded amnesty for Omar, Bin Laden's protector—a price Washington said it would not pay.

No amnesty for Omar

Asked about reports he was offering amnesty to Omar, Karzai replied: "It's not true." The amnesty offer, he said, was for the soldiers, many of them young men from rural regions of southern Afghanistan, where his own Popolzai tribe is located.

Karzai said high-ranking Taliban officials "must face trial" if there was a case against them.

US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld left open the possibility that Washington may not handle justice for the Taliban's senior leaders.

The US goal is "to bring justice" to the Taliban and al Qaeda leadership "or bring them to justice".

But he added, "there are a variety of different ways that can occur, and it will depend on the individual and it will depend on whether or not we get them."

While Rumsfeld said the deal Karzai had negotiated with the Taliban was unlikely to conflict with US interests, he warned that US support for the anti-Taliban forces would end if it did.

US assistance "would clearly take a turn south if something were to be done with respect to the senior people in that situation that was inconsistent with what I've said," he said.

Zaeef said on Thursday that "both sides, Taliban and Karzai, agreed to the surrender of Kandahar for the welfare of the people to decrease casualties to life and to protect the dignity of the people."

Asked about the fate of Omar, Zaeef had said: "His life will be saved and he will be allowed to live with dignity. He is a mujahid (holy warrior), he has worked for the people of Afghanistan and he is not guilty."

As the Taliban came to prominence—and moved on to raw, unchecked power—Omar rarely strayed far from his roots. He seldom left his compound on the outskirts of Kandahar, the old royal capital and once the site of a fortress built by Alexander the Great 2,300 years ago.

The outside world was not welcome; he rarely met anyone who was not a Muslim. Almost no photographs of Omar exist.

Unschooled

Left one-eyed by a shrapnel shard to the face during the fight against the Soviet Union, Omar is largely unschooled except in the Muslim holy book, the Quran—though the Taliban's critics have always claimed the movement's unyielding interpretation of Islam did not have true origins in Quranic teachings.

Before the confrontation with the United States began, Omar declared the Taliban would fight "until there is no blood in Afghanistan left to be shed, and Islam becomes a way of life for our people."

Pakistani intelligence officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said radio intercepts had picked up no communications by Omar in three days and that he appeared to have lost contact with senior Taliban commanders. *Reuters and AP*

Kofi meets Elmo

(From page A1)

when Elmo and his friends argued over who would get to sing the alphabet song.

"Is there a problem I can help you with?" he asked.

"That depends," the fuzzy red puppet replied. "Who are you?"

After Annan introduced himself, he suggested the puppet monsters sing the song together.

Monster Telly replied, "That's so crazy, it just might work!"

The monsters did just that before giving Annan a group hug.

Answering questions after the taping with Elmo at his side, Annan said he agreed to appear on the show because "it is wonderful to be able to reach the young to try to give them the spirit of the United Nations."

He and Elmo engaged in some interplay, with Annan offering him a job at the United Nations and Elmo asking if he could win a Nobel prize, too.

Annan's taping came a few days before he was to accept the 100th Nobel Peace Prize on Dec. 10. He shares the prize, announced in October, with the United Nations.

Only 3rd time

Annan's appearance at the Kaufman Astoria Studios, the Queens locale where the show is taped, marks only the third time in recent history that a well-known figure connected to politics has appeared on the show, said Michael Loman, Sesame Street's executive producer.

Many celebrity guests are entertainers or athletes; the only other political figures were first ladies Barbara Bush and Hillary Clinton, he said.

Loman said Annan, as leader of the United Nations, was a perfect guest for the show.

"One of the things that is truly unique about Sesame Street is that we teach children about inclusiveness . . . so who better to illustrate that point than the secretary general of the United Nations? That was an easy one," he said.

Annan also taped a segment with his wife and the puppet monsters, which dealt with the beauty of all the colors in the world, and how well they went together.

No air date for Annan's appearance has been set, but it will be part of the new season that starts Feb. 4. *AP*

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NEWSBRIEFS

Painful homecoming

NOT even President Macapagal-Arroyo could ease the sorrow of the family of a dead overseas Filipino worker. The remains of Rosalia Reyes, the lone Filipino fatality in the recent spate of suicide bombings in Israel, was flown home last night via a Swiss Air flight from Zurich. The President personally condoled with Reyes' family, her husband Leonardo, 42; daughter Divinagracia, 21; son Richardson, 18; sister Digna Tinio, 40; and mother Remedios Ilao, 74. They met with the President at the Naia I's Presidential Lounge for ten minutes before they walked across the tarmac to receive their mother's remains. Daughter Divinagracia cried unabashedly while her father and brother quietly wept. The family was expected to bring her body straight to her hometown in Padre Garcia, Batangas. Also present at the body's arrival were Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas, Foreign Affairs Assistant Secretary Victoriano Lecaros, and Overseas Worker Welfare Administration head Wilhelm Soriano. Reyes died in a bomb attack on Dec. 2 in Haifa. Four other Filipinos were wounded. *Norman Bordadora*

Ramadan end a holiday

MALACAÑANG yesterday declared Dec. 17 a special non-working holiday to commemorate the end of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan. President Macapagal-Arroyo said the Eid-ul-Fitre, or the Feast of Ramadan, falls this year on Dec. 16, a Sunday. But she decided to declare the following Monday, Dec. 17, as a special non-working holiday "to bring the religious and cultural significance of the Eid-ul-Fitre to the fore of national consciousness." In her Proclamation No. 120-A issued yesterday, Ms Macapagal said this will give the entire Filipino nation "the full opportunity to join our Muslim brothers and sisters in observing and celebrating" the end of a month-long fasting. For the first time, Malacañang declared Eid-ul-Fitre as a special non-working day. *Dona Pazzibugan*

Reset barangay polls?

MALACAÑANG supported postponing the barangay elections scheduled in May next year due to lack of funds. President Macapagal-Arroyo said there is a clamor "from almost everybody" to postpone the elections due to the huge P145 billion budget deficit. "There's no money in the budget for barangay elections. And it's a clamor from everyone. So I think it's a wise proposal coming from everybody. So I agree with it," Ms Macapagal said. The proposal was put forward discussed during the Legislative-Executive Development Advisory Committee (Ledac) meeting on Thursday in Malacañang. Ms Macapagal stressed that the idea did not come from her. "I did not think of it first. It came from others and I said it's a good idea," she said.

TOYM in Malacañang

THE AWARDING rites for The Outstanding Young Men (TOYM) for 2001 will be held on Dec. 11, 2001, in Malacañang with President Macapagal-Arroyo as guest of honor, the Philippine Jaycees announced yesterday. The TOYM, one of the nation's most coveted tributes to young Filipino achievers between the ages 18 to 40, is a joint undertaking of the Jaycees with the TOYM Foundation and Gerry Roxas Foundation. Equitable-PCI Bank and Philippine Long Distance Telephone Company are the corporate sponsors. All past TOYM awardees are invited to attend the affair. For details, contact Juliet and Naysa at the JCP headquarters at tel. nos: 3737907 to 09, and at fax no. 3742495.

Fr. Priela dies; 52

MONSIGNOR Noriel Priela, director of the Pili Parochial School in Pili, Camarines Sur, died last Tuesday. He was 52. Priela, who had celebrated his Silver Sacerdotal Jubilee as a priest only last year, founded the Pili Parochial School in 1994 and had served as vice chair of the Cooperative Bank of Camarines Sur and Habitat Bicol. He was also the former parish priest of St. Raphael, the Archangel Parish in Pili, Camarines Sur. His remains lie at the St. Raphael, the Archangel Parish in Pili and interment will be on Dec. 10 at the Holy Rosary Major Seminary in Naga.

SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

CIVIL LAW (SPECIAL CONTRACTS: SALES)—Double sales—This case involves double sale and, on this matter, Art. 1544 of the Civil Code provides that where immovable property is the subject of a double sale, ownership shall be transferred (1) to the person acquiring it who in good faith first recorded it to the Registry of Property (2) in default thereof, to the person who in good faith was first in possession; and (3) in default thereof, to the person who presents the oldest title. The requirement of the law, where title to the property who presents the oldest title. The requirement of the law, where title to the property is recorded in the Register of Deeds, is two-fold: acquisition in good faith and recording in good faith. To be entitled to priority, the second purchaser must not only prove prior recording of his title but that he acted in good faith, i.e., without knowledge or notice of a prior sale to another. The presence of good faith should be ascertained from the circumstances surrounding the purchase of the land. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Mendoza, Second Division, Martinez v. Court of Appeals, G.R. No. 123547, May 21, 2001]

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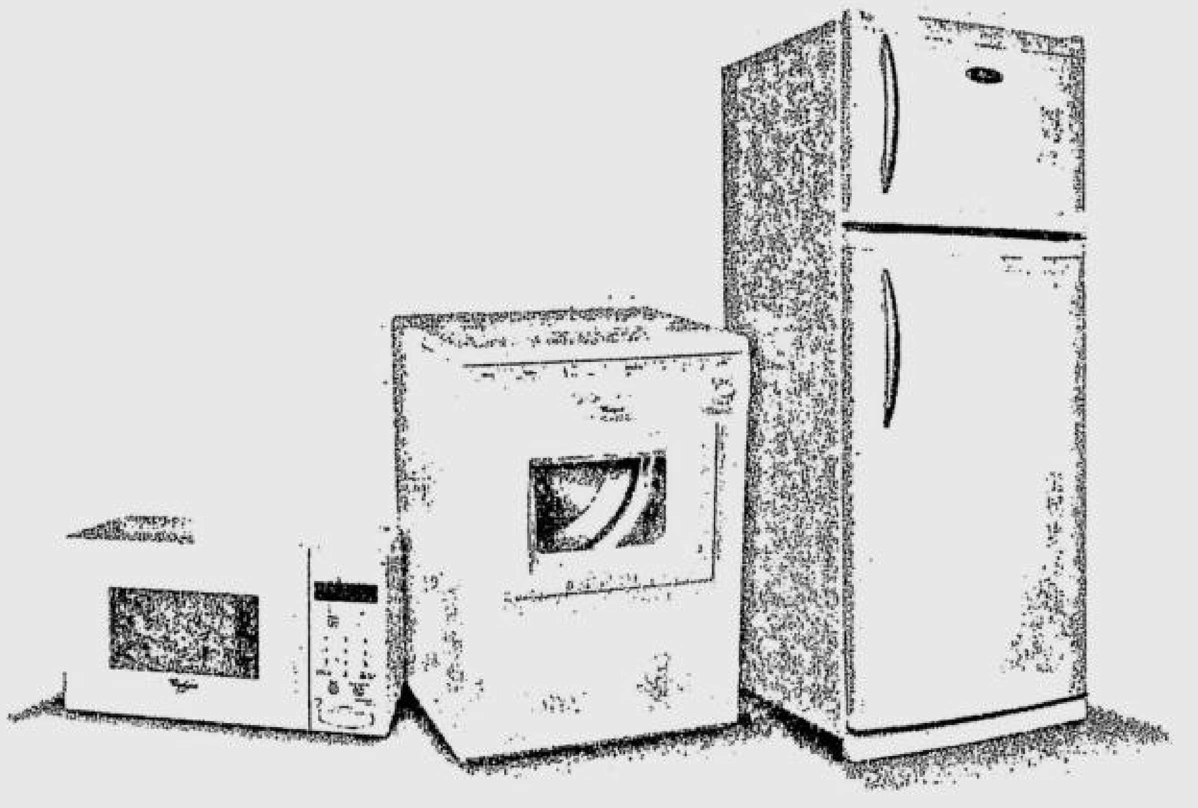

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Refrigerator	WRD 883	205 liters (7.5 cu. ft.) Top Mount Direct cool ref - Metallica series	P 14,950.00	P 4,983.33	P 2,491.66
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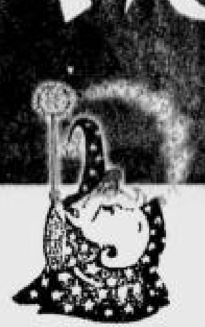

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OPINION

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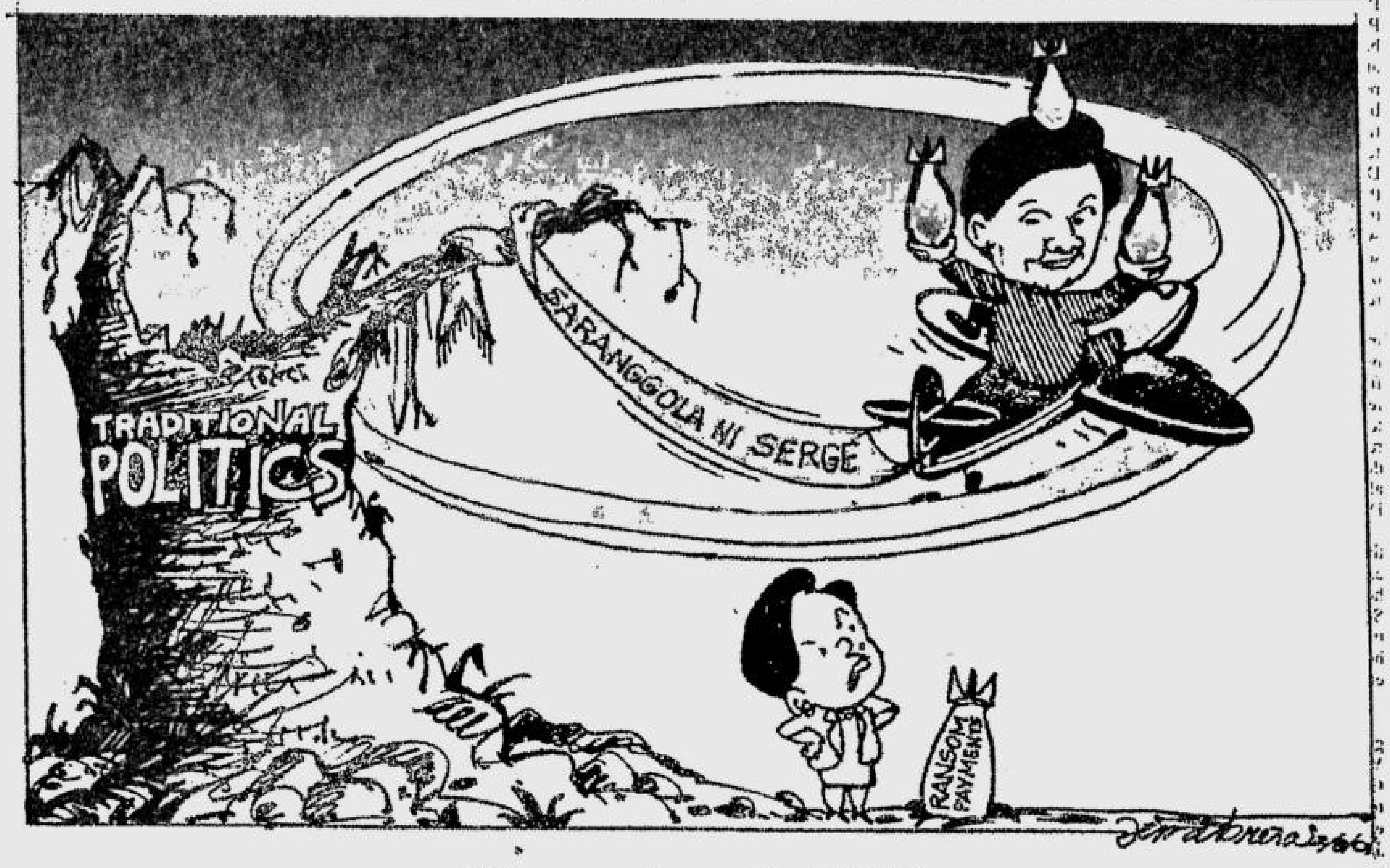


Early gift

EDITORIAL

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo got an early Christmas gift from the Filipino people. And it's the kind of gift any sincere leader would wish for: a broad-based and growing approval for the way she has been running the government. A survey done by the Social Weather Stations from Nov. 3 to 21 showed 53 percent of the respondents expressing satisfaction with her performance. It was the first time since she assumed the presidency that an absolute majority gave her such approval. With "only" 26 percent saying they were dissatisfied, her net rating soared to its highest level at 27 percent from only 15 percent in the September survey.

"Most noteworthy," according to the SWS, were the increases in her ratings in Metro Manila and Luzon as well as among the class D and those in the 18-24 age group. Some of these groups formed her deposed predecessor Joseph Estrada's hardcore constituency who seemed loath to accept her assumption of power. The survey results apparently show a major shift in their attitude, prompting the SWS to declare that "social class differences are now minor." Which means that the class war that Estrada and his political allies have been trying to foment is dead.

There's more to cheer about for an administration that has lately been besieged by relentless attacks from the opposition and other quarters. The overall net satisfaction rating for the administration has more than tripled from 8 percent in September to 27 percent in November. This net rating for the "national administration," the SWS pointed out, was higher than the peaks reached by both the Ramos and the Estrada administrations.

So, should champagne start flowing in Malacañang? Well, yes—if the President can celebrate without her husband. The same SWS survey showed First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo bringing up the rear of the popularity parade. From a negative net trust rating of 8 percent in September, Arroyo dropped even farther in November to minus 21 percent.

And he couldn't be in worse company as far as the administration is concerned. He was down there, the least trusted among "public personalities involved in controversies," a group that included former President Estrada, with a minus 8 net trust rating; Sen. Panfilo Lacson, with a negative 15 percent; Ombudsman Aniano Desierto, with a negative 14 percent; and some of Estrada's most vocal legal advisers, Rene Saguisag and Raymond Fortun.

Worse for Arroyo, the antipodal ratings of the First Couple can't even be interpreted as indicative of a growing sophistication among Filipinos which keeps them from allowing the sins of the husband—real or imaginary—to be visited on the wife. Arroyo, who has been linked to several money scandals in the last few months, has been a drag on the President's rising ratings. An analysis of the survey results showed that public trust in Arroyo and public satisfaction with the President were "strongly related to each other," the SWS said. The implication was that Ms Macapagal's rating would have been higher "were it not for the controversy surrounding the First Gentleman," it added.

However, Arroyo's spokesperson, Patricia Bunye, cautioned the public against "reading too much" into his negative trust rating, saying this was "not indicative of his guilt." Correct. But the same caveat can be said about the drop in the trust ratings of Estrada or Lacson. Or for that matter, the high satisfaction ratings of the President and other officials. Surveys measure perceptions, and perceptions often do not reflect realities.

In this survey, Ms Macapagal got very high marks for her efforts to fight terrorism (62 percent), illegal drugs (59 percent) and corruption (52 percent). But the real score is less than encouraging. Ms. Macapagal has been very vocal in supporting the United States' "war on terror," but in Basilan a couple of hundreds of Abu Sayyaf bandits continue to run circles around thousands of elite government troops pursuing them. There have been some major drug busts in the last few months, but even the authorities will acknowledge that the drug trade continues to thrive. And then there is the trial of Estrada for plunder, but other than that there is little indication that the administration is waging a war against corruption.

For Ms Macapagal, it's a good thing to have the majority of the people behind her and cheering her on. But the last thing she should do is relax and enjoy the good tidings the season has brought. The bubble will burst sooner than later unless the government begins to deliver concrete results in such critical areas as peace and order and the economy and even in those areas where she got high marks.

December 8, 1941

TODAY is the 60th anniversary of the outbreak of the Pacific War. It began in the United States on Dec. 7, 1941, but it was Dec. 8 in this country when the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor. The sneak attack killed 2,300 Americans and sank or damaged 19 ships. President Franklin Delano Roosevelt immediately asked the US Congress to declare the existence of a state of war between the United States and the Japanese Empire.

The Philippines was at the time a colony of the United States and technically American territory. Soon after the treachery in Hawaii, a first wave of Japanese fighter planes bombed and strafed Clark Field, and a second wave attacked the Iba Air Base with the same deadly intent. All the 18 B-17 bombers at Clark, together with some 85 various US military aircraft were destroyed, many on the ground. The ominous news spread fast that Japanese invasion forces were heading toward our country.

President Manuel L. Quezon immediately declared the loyalty of the Philippines to the United States and Gen. Douglas MacArthur, commander of the USAFFE (United States Armed Forces in the Far East) just as instantly mobilized our soldiers, Filipino and American, to resist the enemy. The government whipped up patriotic fervor with the slogan "Keep 'em flying!" referring to our two flags. The populace responded with a worried bravado.

Some of us believed it was going to be a short war, relying on the military supremacy of the United States. In fact, as historians later revealed, the Americans in 1941 were unprepared for the hostilities the Japanese had planned earlier. Little did we in this country imagine the ordeal of a cruel belligerent occupation that would cut down many of our people and starve the rest of us near death. This travail would last for more than three desperate years.

It was Monday in the Philippines when the news of the Pearl Harbor raid sputtered over the radio. My father had gone to his office and my siblings to school, and I was alone in the house with my mother. She diffidently expressed her apprehension, but to comfort her I airily dismissed them and said the Japanese could never invade us. She seemed assured but just the same she later gave each of us children 50 centavos in case the Japanese did come. We promptly spent our emergency fund on dirty ice cream.

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

There really was cause for worry, because the enemy was closing in on us. Our parents were the most disquieted because they had heard about the Japanese atrocities in Nanking of Chinese babies impaled by bayonets and women raped by the savage soldiers. I had three sisters, then 15, 14 and 12, all of them pretty. My elder brother and I, 19 and 17 respectively, were old enough for conscription by the Japanese. Our youngest brother was still a baby. All of us were defenseless against the invading army.

Soon enough, all ROTC trainees, of whom I was one, were ordered to report to their particular schools for induction into the USAFFE. My friend Felix and I walked to the UP, then at Padre Faura, carrying our clothes, toiletries and bedding. We were billeted at the Engineering Building (now the Court of Appeals) and were subjected to strict military discipline, waking up at reveille, drilling in the daytime, retiring at taps, and acting in every respect as soldiers. It was a happy interlude while it lasted although there lurked in everyone of us the secret fear that we would soon be called to the front and face the enemy.

That fear did not materialize, however, because on Christmas Day we were notified that the UP ROTC had been disbanded and we could all go home. The announcement electrified everyone, and soon we were hurriedly gathering our things and hitching on the fastest available vehicle to bring us back to our families. The sumptuous lunch the canteen had prepared for us—*lechon* and chicken and *mechado* and fruits galore, a sort of last supper before we marched to our inevitable fate—lay untouched in the general exhilaration over our abrupt release.

My family welcomed me with unbelieving joy as if I had escaped from the jaws of death. There were probably similar scenes in other homes. Truth to tell, we had not done much during our military stint except perform sentry duty during the blacked-out nights, which was not all that insignificant with reports of saboteurs and spies in the area. Moreover, we were prepared, albeit not all of us courageously, to answer the call to arms in defense of our country.

Things moved faster after the holidays, which were already marred by the inevitability of the Japanese occupation. The invading forces had overrun various parts of the country, and General Homma was heading toward the capital City of Manila to formalize his complete control of the Philippines. Meanwhile, General MacArthur, realizing that there was no stopping the enemy advance, called for the retreat of the USAFFE to the peninsula of Bataan, where they were to take a last-ditch stand.

On Jan. 2, 1942, the Japanese Imperial Forces entered Manila without resistance. MacArthur had declared it an open city, to prevent its destruction as a hostile area. Actually, such a declaration was a mere palliative and only a kind of reprieve because the city would still be laid waste in the future. The tables would be turned against the erstwhile conquerors, at such cost not only to them but also to the city and its residents, but this would come later.

Contrary to our worst misgivings, the entry of the Japanese into the City of Manila was tame and peaceful. Nobody was raped or bayoneted to death. A new government was installed and instructed to curry popular sympathy and support for the belligerent occupant. Things would become fiercer and stricter later, but for the time being the Japanese hoped to be accepted and trusted.

Holed up in Bataan, its defenders were facing tremendous odds in what was later to be hailed as a brilliant "holding action." This strategy gave the Americans the needed breathing spell to recover from their initial reverses. Corregidor was conquered after the fall of Bataan and the Commonwealth Government escaped to the United States. Flush with victory, the Japanese occupant tightened its wicked regime that was to end at the hands of the angry guerrillas and MacArthur's forces.

All this began 61 years ago on that "day that will live in infamy," as President Roosevelt described it. Although it caused us much suffering and misery, it steeled the character of our people, tested our capacity for endurance and survival, and strengthened our resolve against tyranny in all its forms.

A bum's rush not due process

ISMAEL G. Khan Jr., assistant court administrator and chief of the Supreme Court's Public Information Office, wrote me in reference to last Saturday's column, which the editors titled, "Did Garchitorena get due process?"

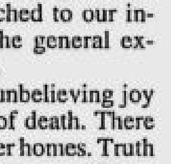
In that column, I asked five questions, and answered four (the answer to the fifth, I thought, was obvious: Garchitorena did not deserve the severity of the punishment and humiliation meted out to him by the Supreme Court).

Khan addresses only my first question (which is the title question), and disagrees with my answer. Since he didn't comment on the other questions and my answers to them, I assume that he agrees with me on them, namely: (1) that the Supreme Court does not seem to hold itself to the same strict standards it imposes on the lower courts, at least with regard to filling out the monthly forms required of the latter; (2) that the Sandiganbayan's record of case dispositions in the past eight years is better than that of either the Supreme Court, the Court of Appeals and the Regional Trial Courts; and (3) that Presiding Justice Francis Garchitorena, while not Speedy Gonzalez by any means, was not the slowest man in his court, or even when compared to other courts.

But back to the first question. Khan's answer is that Garchitorena was accorded due process.

As early as Aug. 8, 2000, he says, Garchitorena was already aware that the Supreme Court was conducting an investigation. "He knew, or should have known, at that time that the Court was asking him to explain the administrative complaint lodged by the Integrated Bar of the Philippines for 'serious delays in the decision of cases and in the resolution of motions and other pending incidents before the different divisions of the Sandiganbayan,' amounting to incompetence, inefficiency, gross neglect of duty and misconduct in office."

GET REAL



Solita Collas-Monsod

Whoa, there. Of course Garchitorena must have been aware of the investigation—but how was he to know that it was he who was being investigated? The IBP Resolution, dated July 31, 2000, and quoted in full in the Pardo decision, did not mention his name at all. The IBP was talking about the Sandiganbayan, not about an individual. In fact, its first concern was that the Sandiganbayan should be made to fill out the same report that other trial courts had to fill out. The delays was only the No. 2 concern. Nowhere in that IBP resolution was there mention of incompetence, inefficiency, gross neglect of duty and misconduct in office, as Khan's letter suggests. That language comes from the Pardo decision.

How such an IBP Resolution could be construed as an administrative complaint against Garchitorena is beyond the stretch of any imagination.

That not even the Supreme Court could have possibly thought it to be an administrative complaint against Garchitorena can be gathered from Justice Pardo's narration of "The Antecedents" in his decision: "On Aug. 8, 2000, the Court required Sandiganbayan Presiding Justice Francis E. Garchitorena to COMMENT on the letter of the IBP and to submit a list of ALL SANDIGANBAYAN CASES pending decision….." (emphasis mine)

Khan must admit that Garchitorena would have to be a mind reader to conclude from that that he was in trouble.

Even when the court administrator submitted his memorandum report (26 days after the imposed deadline) on the judicial audit on the Sandiganbayan, there still was no singling out of Garchitorena in his findings. Again, how the Court was able to leap from a report generic to the Sandiganbayan to a case against Garchitorena is beyond one's imagination. And again, Garchitorena was not given notice that he had been singled out.

Contrast this cavalier treatment of Garchitorena with the wording of the resolution that the Supreme Court sent to Justice Anacleto Badoy after his ambulance stunt: "The Court thus resolves to REQUIRE Mr. Justice Badoy to SHOW within a non-extendible period of five (5) days from service hereof that the foregoing acts do not constitute conduct unbecoming of an Associate Justice of the Sandiganbayan."

The language cannot be mistaken. Badoy is told he is in trouble and is given time to explain his side. That's due process. Garchitorena was never given the opportunity to defend himself against specific charges, because never were either the reports or the complaints directed at him in an individual capacity. Never, in a manner similar to the treatment of Badoy, was he required to show cause why he shouldn't be considered incompetent, inefficient, grossly neglectful of duty and guilty of misconduct. The Court just found him guilty of it, apparently because he "admitted" there were delays in 341 cases (although 156 cases involved only one decision) in his division, and took sole responsibility for undue delays in ONE case.

No, Mr. Khan. Not by any stretch of the imagination can one say that the Supreme Court accorded Garchitorena due process.

I said it before, and I'll say it again. Justice was denied to Garchitorena. What he got was a bum's rush, in a bum decision.

VP: New bond offer to encourage OFW savings

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

PACIFICO Marcelo, the chief executive of the Philippine Communications Clearinghouse Inc., who has accused President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo of allegedly trying to wrest 51 percent of his company in return for the hassle-free refiling of the PCCI franchise bill she had vetoed last April, appears to be in big trouble, apart from what appears to be perjured testimony in the Senate. Bureau of Immigration and Deportation Chief Andrea Domingo told the media that her office has clearly established, with the help of the US State Department, that he continues to be an American citizen. She said that this US office recently sent her a copy of Marcelo's application for renewal of his US passport—a clear indication that he has not renounced his US citizenship.

This means that Marcelo violated the Constitution in his claimed ownership of 85 percent of the PCCI (it provides that foreign equity in telecommunications firms cannot exceed 40 percent) and obviously misrepresented his citizenship before the SEC as well as to the members of Congress when they voted last February to approve his franchise bill. Talk that he is dummying for Jaime Dichaves, Erap's buddy, could also get him into additional trouble with the Anti-Dummy Law.

Domingo recently served Marcelo a subpoena through his lawyer, asking him to appear in 10 days to explain his citizenship circumstances. She stressed, however, that she will not move against him while the Senate blue ribbon committee hearings on his allegations against Ms Macapagal are going on. But the way he's getting into trouble, says Domingo, "Marcelo may end up behind bars even before I could deport him."

* * *

Encouraged by the success of his recent "Congress and Festival of Filipinos in Japan" in Tokyo, Vice President and Foreign Secretary Teofisto Guingona Jr. spoke to the media about his desire to help the plight of the overseas Filipino workers. Over 500 leaders of 30 OFW organizations in Japan had enthusiastically welcomed Guingona's announcement of the Department of Foreign Affairs' "Overseas Filipino Investors bonds," to be formally launched early in 2002. He explained that as envisioned by the DFA, the Department of Finance will issue US100 million-worth of OFI bonds with a minimum placement of US$100 per investor, to be guaranteed by the Republic and assured return of principal and interest even before the expiry of the bonds' three-year life. The bonds will carry other benefits such as health care, death insurance and a prize of at least $10,000 to the OFW who wins a weekly lottery. In addition, the government can include as benefits some national projects such as housing and retirement villages.

* * *

What's good about these bonds, stressed Guingona, is that the project would "guide our OFW brethren to use savings prudently." Noting that many OFWs dream of "safe accumulated savings for their retirement," he stressed that this is the reason the DFA came up with these OFI bonds guaranteed by the Republic. Happily, to quote Pilar Baltazar, spokesperson of the Kapisanan ng Migranteng Filipino, the 250,000 Japan-based Filipinos view the bonds as a "vehicle for mobilizing their savings in partnership with the government." In fact, to show their support for these bonds, the Japan-based OFWs pledged to Guingona to invest over $200,000 in them.

I can see the wisdom of these bonds as badly needed retirement savings, for all too often, our OFWs end up merely squandering their earnings abroad in useless endeavors. Besides, the country badly needs to shore up its savings, as it has the smallest savings in Asia. The bonds' success, however, will depend on the OFWs' confidence in the government, which means mapping out an aggressive marketing strategy.

* * *

In addition to the savings, Guingona also assured the OFWs that the government is doing all it can to help them build a solid future. One step the DFA has taken, he pointed out, was to forge an agreement with the International Labor Organization to craft the necessary training modules for OFWs, so that those who wish to improve their skills and status may do so through distance education. Guingona noted, for instance, that through distance learning, the thousands of ordinary seaman, after passing the required examination, could become radio operators or officers of their vessels, instead of remaining mere floor-moppers and cafeteria servers. The same, he stressed, is true of our domestics: through distance learning they could become nursing aides, nurses or secretaries with bigger compensation and better prospects.

The Vice President also told the OFWs that aside from economic empowerment, they may finally be able to enjoy "political privileges" they have been longing for, principally the right to absentee voting. This is because both chambers of Congress appear determined to pass the law on absentee voting. Senate President Franklin Drilon and Speaker Jose de Venecia themselves assured various Filipinos abroad that they will both push its passage. With such guarantees, the reality cannot be far behind.

* * *

Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez called up this columnist before leaving yesterday for the Caraga area just outside Butuan City in Agusan, where he was to inaugurate a 120,000-hectare tree plantation owned by a Chinese-New Zealander named C.T. Tan. Alvarez was quite excited, as this plantation is part of the forest masterplan drawn up by the Asian Development Bank during the Ramos years, and which the Macapagal administration recently identified as part of the 690,000-hectare "timber corridor" in Eastern Mindanao. The Tan plantation is a joint-venture production, with the land grant from the government and the capital and technology by Tan.

* * *

Alvarez pointed out that the Philippines imports some $70 million in timber, but this country also has some 5 million hectares of denuded forests. If we can only reforest even half a million of those 5 million hectares, he said, we can not only satisfy our timber needs, but we could even become a big timber net exporter. It could generate badly needed jobs—e.g., the Tan venture in Agusan will employ 5,000 people to, among others, work in seed production (through cloning from tissues of select healthy tree specimens) in a laboratory right in the middle of the plantation. What's also great about this massive reforestation is that it will help the environment, said Alvarez, inasmuch as one 40-year-old tree can hold 150 gallons of water. "If you see a forest, you see a lake," he said, waxing poetic. He also pointed out that the technology of managing the industrial tree plantation technology comes from the Scandinavian countries but it takes 30 years for trees to grow there, whereas here our trees need only 10 years to grow. The Tan plantation expects to harvest trees in that period of time.

The courage of Maria

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

AS I write this, it's two in the morning of Friday and I'm trying not to nod off as I have to be off and running to the airport in an hour. We're taking the 5:20 a.m. flight to Tacloban, where I shall address a group of local government officials, women advocates and community leaders on the issue of domestic violence. The next day, Pennie Azarcon dela Cruz, managing editor of the Sunday Inquirer Magazine, will address local media practitioners on the coverage of crimes of violence against women and children, including domestic violence.

The Tacloban consultation is part of a series being undertaken by our women's group Pilipina, with support from the United Nations Fund for Women (Unifem). Last week, we went to Baguio and Benguet, hosted by our good friends Benguet Vice Gov. Edna Tabanda and Dr. Louee Padilla of the Baguio Colleges Foundation. Next week, we wind up the series with a visit to Cagayan de Oro.

It's been a nightmare squeezing these weekend trips into the typically crammed holiday schedule. But such activities have been part of the agenda of women for eight years or so, ever since the "16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence" campaign was launched on the eve of the International Conference on Human Rights. The "16 Days" kicked off last Nov. 25, which commemorates the brutal murder of coeds in a Canadian university, and ends on Dec. 10, International Human Rights Day.

For some parties to imply, then, that women's groups are "feasting" on the suicide (according to police) of former starlet and comedienne Maria Teresa Carlson, as can be seen by the flurry of activities, would be delusional on their part. Maria happened to die two days before the annual campaign was to start. Admittedly, her death has galvanized public opinion in sympathy for her plight, and for all women who have suffered abuse within the family. But we would have spoken out and demanded the passage of domestic violence legislation even if Maria had not flown to ultimate freedom.

* * *

SHOULD women's groups not interfere in or speak out about Maria's stories of abuse and violence because, according to her widower, the former governor Rodolfo Fariñas, what happened between them was a private matter?

That is precisely why women are raising alarums at the glaring absence of a law that addresses violence within the home and family. For far too long has domestic violence remained a hidden epidemic and a matter of shame for its victims. And this because the violence hid behind the burqa of privacy and intimacy. Women have suffered physical, emotional, psychological and even economic abuse for years without recourse of relief or escape because it was deemed "natural" and "right" for a man to "discipline" his wife and children, even if this involved violence.

Women's rights are human rights, and human rights violations are especially reprehensible when they take place within the home, where one is supposed to be safe from harm, and at the hands of one's spouse or parent, to whom one is bound by vows of fidelity, support and love.

* * *

AT THE TV public affairs show "Debate with Mare at Pare" Thursday night, "Mareng" Winnie Monsod shocked everyone with a confession. In 1986, on a visit to Ilocos Norte where Fariñas was then governor, Maria slipped a small piece of paper onto Winnie's palm. It contained a note appealing for help because Maria was allegedly being tortured by her husband.

"The minute" she got back to Manila, Winnie said, she went to then President Cory Aquino and showed her the note. Ms Aquino then called the local prelate, Bishop Abaya, and asked him if there was any truth to Maria's claims. As Winnie tells it, the bishop, a good friend of Fariñas, dismissed the story and said Maria was emotionally troubled.

"This has always troubled me," Winnie said, realizing that she had "exported" the problem of Maria to the President, and the President in turn had "exported" it to another authority. But if the President of the land cannot help you escape a husband you deem abusive, then who can help you?

Consider, then the courage of Maria, who withstood almost 15 years of suffering, and attempted, many, many times to find help and rescue from government officials, women's groups, the media and even foreign diplomats.

Which brings me to Maria's last moments. Even if, as her husband claims, Maria was in the throes of her delusions, she still thought it of most urgent need to board a taxi, direct it to Malacañang and demand to see President Macapagal so she could show a tape purportedly proving her husband's abuse. Of course, the President doesn't have to speak up on every celebrity death that takes place, but isn't she even curious about that tape's contents? Couldn't she order a search for the tape and verification of what it contains?

* * *

"WHAT did you do to help her?" Fariñas, now a private citizen after losing his congressional bid, challenged women's groups at the show. He would later tell the audience that in 15 years of marriage to a woman he described as unstable after a damaged childhood, he had brought her for psychiatric treatment for all of one month.

On hindsight, though, that's a valid question. What DID we do to help her? And by we, I mean all of us, men and women, regardless of whether we had ever met Maria in person or simply enjoyed her fractured Tagalog on TV. Because domestic violence is a problem that confronts not just the couple or the family at home. It is a problem that blights the community and destroys the future, for it teaches the children growing up in a violent home that violence is the only way to settle differences.

What can we do for other women? For starters, we can believe their stories.

An encounter with the generalissimo II

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

GEN. Emilio Aguinaldo accepted the invitation proffered by Fr. Tomas Espejo, the parish priest of Taguig, and appeared that evening at the convent accompanied by his generals, brigadiers and colonels. He is said to have greeted them affably and courteously. They offered him a seat which he accepted and they talked for more than an hour regarding certain matters.

The general is described as a native born Caviteño from Cavite Viejo and a municipal captain, diffident but energetic when giving orders to his subalterns. He was a student at the San Juan de Letran and spoke Spanish moderately well. He was young, of good stature, dressed in *rayadillo* like the government troops and bore no insignias.

He expounded on the good treatment afforded the prisoners in Cavite referring no doubt (according to Father Espejo) to those under him because those that depended on Andres Bonifacio did not receive such treatment according to the press until satiety. He told them nonetheless that on the same day one of the religious prisoners, P. Piernavieja under Bonifacio, was being subjected to the Council of War but the reason or the motives for the investigation or trial were left unsaid. Nor did they know the outcome.

It seemed to them that he was sincere in his answers and they asked him about the parish priests at Imus at the beginning of the insurrection. He answered that the priests and the Guardia Civil under Lieutenant Chacon had barricaded themselves in the casa hacienda that the Recollects had in the town and no matter how they had asked them to surrender, promising to spare their lives, they turned a deaf ear to the proposals. They remained in the house for two days and when Aguinaldo's men realized they were unarmed, they burnt the door with petrol. The group then marched out in a closed column and since they were surrounded on all sides, they were shot to death on the road to Bacoor without anyone surviving.

According to the general, the horrors committed against them as reported in the Manila press were not true. They were buried in the cemetery of the town with the exception of Señor Chacon who was thrown into the river because of the sufferings he had caused the people. The priests asked him other questions such as the objective of his expeditions through these towns and he replied that the councils of Taguig had invited him. They asked him the number of his troops and he replied that he only had a thousand men, 500 carrying firearms and the rest swords and bolos. Later others would report that the firearms consisted only of some 150 Remington rifles, some guns and shotguns and the rest were revolvers. He also told them that the Cavite army consisted of 100,000 men under him.

The hour of dinner approached and the general accepted the invitation to dine. Afterwards he left to continue supervising the trench digging. A few moments later, one of the aides arrived inviting the priests to go to Cavite with the generalissimo where they would be well treated and all considerations due them would be observed. They excused themselves courteously, citing various reasons.

Unsuccessful in his first request, the aide then asked for P1,000 to pay for some arms ordered from Europe. The priests again excused themselves, stating they didn't even have a P100 for emergencies. The aide left only to be followed by a colonel and four armed guards who invited them (the priests) to go to the house occupied by the generalissimo. Not having much choice, they followed. They were informed that the group having finished their work, was returning that night for Cavite.

At this, they were saved by the lieutenant earlier mentioned who had been a classmate of Aguinaldo in Letran. When the lieutenant found out that they had been brought to the said house, he presented himself there and without much ado went to the general with whom he spoke for a few minutes. He returned immediately reassuring the priests that they need not go to Imus nor would they be exacting money from them that they didn't have. In a few minutes the general appeared, assuring them that they could return to the convent with tranquility.

The second day dawned and the situation continued in the same state. In the afternoon, vigorous gunfire was heard from the direction of Tipas, a part of Taguig. The shooting from Mausers lasted more than an hour. Shortly after the fusillade stopped a group of 30 men passed in front of the Tribunal going toward the mountains. After a few moments, a smaller group left in the same direction. The priests understood that the moment of retreat was critical but the sight of the convent and church full of townspeople who had taken refuge there consoled them.

At three in the afternoon, the generalissimo passed and sent a resident he found in the street to apologize on his behalf for not personally bidding them farewell. They never saw him again. Their anxiety though did not diminish once the retrenchment commenced because what the general did not do, his men armed with bolos did. They kept entering the convent where they took many residents and obliged them to join. The afternoon turned to night and when the third day dawned there were still rebels in the town.

Finally, help arrived on the third day at 10 in the morning when there were no more rebels.

Who is beautiful?

YOUNGBLOOD

Kristel S. Patapat

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

AS our bus stopped at the driveway of the National Center for Mental Health (NCMH), I felt...well, I don't really know how I felt. There isn't one word in the dictionary to describe what I felt that day. For a moment, I was confused. I was feeling a mixture of extremely strong emotions all at once. I felt like exploding. I was scared, nervous, excited and even freaked out.

I was scared of what might happen. Will they hurt us? What will I say to them? I was nervous because of what I might see and hear that would stick to my brain and disturb me for the rest of my life. And I must have freaked out to feel so excited about visiting a mental hospital.

It was a different kind of excitement. It was not like the excitement I felt when I first visited the zoo. It's not the excitement of going to your first concert, it was the excitement of not just seeing or listening, but actually of experiencing a whole new dimension of life.

I was still in the bus when I realized that I wanted to cry, even go back to school and not go on with this educational trip. But, I was there.

It was different from what I saw on television: it was worse. I guess editing did a lot of good in that TV program I saw featuring the NCMH. They definitely did not show what I was seeing.

I was sweating. My palms were sweating and I did not have enough presence of mind to take down notes as our guide showed us around the hospital.

I'm sorry to say this, but the hospital was pitiful. It made me wonder, "*Gumagaling ba talaga sila dito?*"

The hospital always got a small budget and, in my view, its facilities were primitive. They still applied shock treatment on patients, supposedly the last resort for individuals who were mentally ill. They gave the cheapest kinds of medicine which I'm sure led to adverse side effects. The wards looked like pig pens to me. The patients were virtually living in cages. They were not prisoners! And they were definitely not animals! They were people who needed help and understanding.

I'm just so angry! Prisoners probably live in better conditions. The patients at the NCMH slept on the floor. Some of them had no slippers. Many of them were not wearing any underwear!

I saw their food being served in a dish fit for Bantay. I did not see any utensils.

The patients practically washed and bathed where they slept. The bathing areas must have been so crowded for I saw a man bathing naked outside the adult ward.

I was shocked. I did not know how to react. I knew some of my classmates saw him, too, but they were discrete enough to keep their comments and reactions to themselves.

What I will never forget was the face of a patient from the adult female ward. She came up to my friends and me and said, "*Ang ganda-ganda nyo naman, ate.*"

I smiled at her and said, "*Ikaw din, ang ganda-ganda mo.*" She said, "*Wala pang nagsasabi sa akin niyan.*"

I told her, "*Ayan madami kami ha? Sinabi na naming maganda ka.*"

She smiled at me and offered to sing a song. She seemed so happy to see so many visitors.

As we started to leave, many of the patients were shouting: "*Balik kayo dito ha? Bisitahin nyo kami!*"

I wanted to die. I wanted to kill myself for complaining about my life. After seeing their kind of life, guilt filled my soul. I felt helpless.

I'm an 18-year-old nobody. I am not beautiful, as that woman said. I am ugly—if only for the fact that I look at life the way I do—for not appreciating what I have and always asking for more than what I actually need. There are no real beautiful people. *Kung tutuusin, mas maganda ka pa sa akin.* I am not sick and yet I think sick.

I feel so sorry that I can't help them. My life will never be the same; that trip changed me. I can only pray that it changed them, too.

Kristel S. Patapat, 19, is an AB Psychology junior at Miriam College.

Mecca

Samira Ali Gutoc

AIR! Air! Gasp...Pant...Could I hold on any longer? My lungs tightening, my breathing weakening. A mass of bodies was crushing my thin frame. It was 1990 and the last year I'd be staying in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia with my expatriate parents. I was on a journey that was to change my life. I, along with millions was on a pilgrimage, fulfilling a duty as I trekked the brown sands of the Holy Place, Mecca.

Mystery shrouds much of what happens in an Islamic community. In Mecca for instance, Christians are not allowed to enter. I remember a CNN coverage, when Riz Khan reported the pilgrimage series, obviously able to do so because he could enter the restricted area. This time, my trip to Mecca held more meaning because I was a teenage adult, who resolved to practice more of my faith.

As we were driving, nearing the center of Mecca, the Kaaba (that contains the Black Stone, which everyone struggles to touch), my eyes strained to see the broad expanse of white-garbed men and women, young and old, rich and poor, walking the whole stretch, all unified in a goal—in the worship of One God. Black and white, Afghans, Americans, alongside each other, struggled their way to achieving an Ummah (community of believers) which saw no race, strata or difference at all. To an awed 15-year-old, everyone looked the same to me.

We earlier parked somewhere away from the Kaaba because it was impossible to drive the car through the shoving human bodies. As we blended with the crowd marching toward the heart of Mecca, I felt a giddy feeling, overpowering my bodily weakness. Last-minute instructions were given to us: everyone should hold on to each other's hands tightly. Children were to be carried on the shoulders or they should cling tightly to the elders. The men were to form a circle around the women and children to ensure that they won't be separated.

Taking one deep breath, we joined the whirlwind of people. Bodies clung side by side, sweat pouring under the Arabian heat, as we circled the Kaaba seven times, each round proclaiming: "There is one God but Allah and Mohammad are His messengers." The crowd grew thicker. The men issued warnings to keep close to the group. The children were turning tearful as it became harder to breathe.

Two more rounds. The heat was killing me. I thought I would faint on the spot but it must have been faith or determination that got me and the rest through. Reciting the name of God all the way. At last we hit our mark. Seven rounds of sacrifice and we finally made it. We gave one prayer and made our way out of the crowd. There would be other rituals to do.

We sat in our tents. I looked across to the other tents. One image struck me, among others: Iraqis and South Africans slept in the same tent and shared the same drink. I reflected that this pilgrimage was not a journey to end here in Mecca. The pilgrimage goes on to the journey to the heart.

Samira Ali Gutoc, 26, a campus writer, studied in the Philippine School in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia during her elementary and high school years. She had Afghan friends in the same school.

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Bishops denounce internal refugee situation in S. Tagalog

FOR MORE than a month now, the Mangyans of Mindoro and other farmers in Quezon, Batangas and Laguna have sought refuge at the National Office of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines in Quezon City.

This evacuation is due to the large-scale military operation in Southern Luzon, involving the deployment of 16 battalions of soldiers, six of these in Mindoro Oriental and three in Laguna, under Task Force Banahaw.

Aside from forced evacuation, the Task Force Tanggol Karapatan has documented 157 cases of human rights violations committed against the residents in the affected places. These range from harassment to the loss of human lives, affecting a total of 4,412 families including the beheading of an old Mangyan woman.

The Ecumenical Bishops Forum, a fellowship of bishops from the Roman Catholic, Iglesia Filipina Independiente, United Church, Episcopal and Methodist churches, denounce this situation of internal refugees in our country. It is deplorable that national minorities, long a marginalized sector in our country, would be internal refugees, evicted from their homes and forced to flock in towns or cities as far as Metro Manila. As Christians, we can neither tolerate nor ignore such overkill. We strongly denounce the war-footing taken by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, especially when we consider that she was catapulted to power through non-violent means.

War knows no mercy as our experience in this country shows. The destruction to the environment is irreplaceable and the scars of war will be etched in the hearts and minds of innocent victims for generations. These, we cannot condone.

We commend the United Church of Christ in the Philippines for providing a sanctuary to God's little ones. But we cannot say the same thing of those who cause them to suffer and of uprooting them from where God has wonderfully placed them. Therefore:

1. We ask President Macapagal to order the immediate cessation and withdrawal of military operations in Southern Tagalog.

2 We urge the print and broadcast media to remain vigilant in the crusade of exposing militarization and its effects in the different areas in the country.

3. We support congressional inquiry and independent fact-finding missions that would probe the human rights violations in Mindoro and other areas of Southern Tagalog. Perpetrators of the harassment, death and disappearance of Mangyans and other residents must not go unpunished. The victims must be accorded justice.—**BISHOP ERME R. CAMBA, co-chair, Ecumenical Bishops Forum, 877 Epifanio delos Santos Ave., Quezon City**

Garchitorena did get due process

I AM writing in reference to Solita Monsod's column on Dec. 1 titled, "Did Garchitorena get due process?"

Yes, Justice Francisco Garchitorena was accorded due process.

As early as Aug. 8, 2000, Garchitorena was already made aware that the Supreme Court was conducting an investigation when he was asked by the Supreme Court for his comments on AM No. 00-8-05-SC titled, "Re: Problem of Delays in Cases Before the Sandiganbayan."

He knew, or should have known, at that time that the Court was asking him to explain the administrative complaint lodged by the Integrated Bar of the Philippines for "serious delays in the decision of cases and in the resolution of motions and other pending incidents before the different divisions of the Sandiganbayan," amounting to incompetence, inefficiency, gross neglect of duty and misconduct in office.

In fact, Garchitorena dutifully complied with the order of the Supreme Court on Sept. 27, 2000 and again, on Oct. 20, 2000. His own compliance reports reveal that the Sandiganbayan has a total of 415 cases which have remained undecided long beyond the reglementary period to decide, with one case submitted for decision way back May 24, 1990.

It is also interesting, to note that just a week before Garchitorena's relief as presiding justice, the Court promulgated its decision in the case of Licaros vs. Sandiganbayan in which he was called to task for the unreasonable delay of 10 years in resolving a criminal case, without the fault of the accused Licaros and despite his earnest effort to have his case decided, thus violating the man's constitutional right to the speedy disposition of his case. As Justice Artemio V. Panganiban, who wrote the Court's decision in Licaros, pointed out, however, no administrative sanction could be meted out then since "due process requires that before such penalty can be imposed, the proper administrative proceedings must be conducted, as in fact one is already being undertaken in AM No. 00-8-05-SC titled, "Re: Problem of Delays in Cases Before the Sandiganbayan."

In regard to the present case, the Supreme Court, through Justice Bernardo P. Pardo, did not find it necessary to "conduct a formal investigation of the charges in view of the admission of Justice Garchitorena in his compliance of Oct. 20, 2000, that there are indeed hundreds of cases pending decision beyond the reglementary period of ninety (90) days from their submission. In one case, he not only admitted the delay in deciding the case but took sole responsibility for such inaction for more than ten (10) years that constrained this Court to grant mandamus to dismiss the case against an accused to give substance and meaning to his constitutional right to a speedy trial."

I hope that this straightforward narration of the events leading to the relief of Garchitorena of his duties and functions as presiding justice has allayed any misgivings or apprehensions that the Supreme Court has denied him due process. Garchitorena, in tribute to him, apparently does not believe so.—**ISMAEL G. KHAN JR., assistant court administrator and chief public information officer, Supreme Court, Padre Faura, Manila**

LETTERS

The least truant senators could do

WHILE the Senate is rushing approval of the national budget for 2002, one of its members, Sen. Tito Sotto, is playing golf in Baguio. In his column on Dec. 5, Sports editor Al Mendoza quoted the good senator as saying: "The Fil-Am (Golf Championships) has this magic that continues to captivate me over the years. Every year I look forward to being a participant to this great golfing event." After completing his 18 holes, Sotto told Mendoza, "Ah, what a day. Golf never ceases to relax me."

A few months back, another movie star-turned-lawmaker, Sen. Ramon Revilla, was shown on TV watching a boxing match at ringside in Japan at a time when the Senate was discussing the anti-money laundering bill.

It is repugnant to see senators of the republic relaxing and having fun in some faraway place while crucial legislative measures are being deliberated upon. Not that we utterly miss their presence in the Senate but the least service Sotto and Revilla could do for the country is hide their indiscretion from the public eye.—**ROSE T. REYES, Philamlife Village, Las Piñas City**

Relentless media campaign vs Piatco

FOR THE INVESTORS, particularly the foreign shareholders in the Philippine International Air Terminals Co. Inc. (Piatco), which got a BOT contract to build the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Passenger Terminal 3, the media criticism that greeted the project would have been reason enough to pack up if they did not know that the "controversy" was nothing but a public relations campaign launched by a few desperate airport services monopolists conniving with a sore loser in the bidding (Lucio Tan).

Apart from the sad fact that this "controversy" showed the true color of some opinion writers (at no time in the history of Philippine journalism did we see all on the same day three or four name columnists pontificating on the same issues in exactly the same order and in almost the same tenor), this phenomenon also demonstrates how easily selfish private interests can derail public infrastructure development projects. In addition, it also gave birth to a number of pseudo people's movements which easily parade around town and mouth the same lies together upon the prodding of a former government official whose other claim to fame is his passionate attack against a former president whom he charged with favoring a crony in a securities deal, but who today is as passionately promoting the interests of the No. 1 crony of that deposed president.

We invite the INQUIRER, which is probably the country's last remaining bastion of true and fair journalism (notwithstanding that some of its opinion writers have written critically about the project), to do its own impartial inquiry of this deal between Piatco and the government. We believe that, apart from the courts (despite our occasional misgivings on some judges), your publication has that credibility which the public can rely on for forming an intelligent judgment on what the real score is about this project.

With the kind of journalism we have around, we see no way to stop the publication of the misrepresentations and lies that the well-oiled public relations machine of the project detractors turn out almost on a daily basis. But an honest-to-goodness investigative writing by the INQUIRER would make the intelligent public see the truth for itself. Or else, we might yet see an important project go bust on account of a relentless media campaign of its sourgraping detractors.

Shall we let such selfish private interests prevail over the national interest? Shall we allow the efforts of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to keep our economy afloat by inviting foreign investors to invest in the country go to waste because some long-time monopolists are driving them away with trumped-up charges and by lobbying before every receptive institution and public official?—**MOISES S. TOLENTINO JR., vice president for public affairs, Philippine International Air Terminals Co. Inc., Pasay City**

Less costly method of road repair

THE DEPARTMENT of Public Works and Highways has been doing the wrong and costly method of repairing our concrete roads. "*Konting hukay ng konkreto, konting buhos ng semento o kaya'y tapal ng aspalto, tapos, kuwarta kaagad. Ang dali ng pera at walang hirap.*" The results are humpy, bumpy roads more particularly on the stretch of the South Luzon Expressway (SLEX) from Magallanes to Buendia, Makati which was left behind, damaged by the contractor of the Skyway.

When my 5-year-old Fil-Canadian nephew visited the Philippines 26 years ago, his impression was, "Your country is very green but your roads are humpy, bumpy. In my country the roads are smooth. I can ride my bike the whole day." This year, he again visited the country and said, "Tito, your roads are not only humpy, bumpy but also dumpy and smelly." The addition was the garbage all over Metro Manila.

If President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo would like to attract foreign and local tourists to visit the countryside, she should order the DPWH to do the correct and less costly method of repairing our concrete roads by scraping the surface of the roads and applying six to eight inches of first-class asphalt (which is recyclable) all the way. This method is being used by the United States, Canada, Japan and was also used by the contractor of the Skyway from Magallanes to Alabang and even further. This method will result in a smooth ride for the riding public and less cost of vehicle underchassis repairs.—**EDUARDO M. REYES, Tahanan Village, Barangay BF Homes, Parañaque City**

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Coco farmers can lose everything

THIS pertains to the Dec. 3, 2001 story titled, "No money involved in deal, says aide."

Norberto Gonzales Jr., presidential adviser for special concerns, said that unlike the previous administrations of Corazon Aquino, Fidel V. Ramos and Joseph Estrada, the negotiations to settle the P120 billion in coconut levy funds under the Macapagal administration do not involve discussions of a commission. He claimed that he was not officially involved in the negotiations. "I am not getting any commissions from this," he said.

Gonzales' statements are revealing. If he is not involved in the negotiations, how come he knows that the negotiation "do not involve discussions of a commission"? How come he is saying that "he is not getting a commission from this" when nobody is saying that he is getting a commission? Does he mean that now that no commissions are involved, the thieves will be allowed to run away with their P120-billion loot? Where a compromise deal is arrived at, that is where we should suspect a sharing of the loot called commission by Gonzales.

For the record, I would want to state that I was the military supervisor of the coconut industry during the martial law regime from 1973 to 1977 and I exposed the coconut levy irregularities in a masteral thesis I had for my Ateneo MBA in 1977. From then on, I continued the struggle to help the 2 million coconut farmers, victims of the levy racket in their struggle for justice against the powerful plunderers.

To my knowledge, there were no negotiations for a compromise settlement during the Aquino administration. In fact, Ms Aquino sequestered all the coco levy assets for reasons that "they were the result of a systematic plunder of the coconut industry." Eduardo Cojuangco Jr., Maria Clara Lobregat and several others were charged for this.

During the Ramos administration, I was the administrator of the Philippine Coconut Authority. There was then an initiative by Sen. Blas Ople to broker a so-called compromise agreement. We found the proposal to be a deception to get the government to commit an error resulting in the dismissal of all the levy cases in favor of the accused. President Ramos rejected the proposal on the spot.

Under the Estrada administration, Estrada being a very close ally of Cojuangco, there was a *moro-moro* compromise settlement set forth in Executive Order 313. However, before EO 313 could be fully implemented, Estrada was overthrown by people power. Had he been overthrown three months later, the whole P120-billion coco levy assets would have disappeared into the secure pockets of Marcos cronies and dummies and the farmers would have lost everything.

Now under the Macapagal administration, the same or a very similar executive order is being proposed as compromise settlement. Behind the maneuver are Cojuangco, Lobregat, Gonzales, Dante Ang and Efren Villaseñor. If this compromise goes through, the plunderers will run away clean, initially with the P50 billion in a proposed trust fund for the coconut farmers. It will be very hard to believe that those responsible for allowing the thieves to run away with the loot had no share of the loot. The remaining P70 billion will subsequently suffer the same fate.

Gonzales claimed that I wanted a commission because I was the one who started the exposé on the coco levy scam and that I am opposed to a settlement now because I would be left with nothing! This is not only completely wrong but a blatant lie.

I do not settle with thieves much less ask for a commission. There is no such thing as a commission in thievery. It is simply sharing the loot with thieves. Gonzales must be unknowingly talking about himself—expecting a commission for initiating a compromise with thieves.

I agree with the position of the solicitor general, the Presidential Commission on Good Government chair, the executive secretary and the chief presidential legal counsel: No compromise.

The entire P120 billion worth of assets came from the coconut levies imposed by Presidential Decree 276 on every first sale of coconut products nationwide from 1973 to 1982 and effectively up to the first Edsa Revolution, without the issuance of any receipts to the coconut farmers/landowners. The billions in collections were then transferred into private accounts in the names of Marcos cronies and dummies and then used to buy majority shares of SMC, the entire UCPB, the CIIF oil mills, the Unicom and other investments. The 27-percent share in SMC, which is the subject of the compromise, is in the names of cronies and dummies under the control of Cojuangco. The proposed executive order treating them as private funds belonging to those listed as stockholders will keep these funds in the hands of these dummies. The coconut farmers and the government, save for Villaseñor and Gonzales, will lose everything.

To solve this problem once and for all, we urgently need a court decision. Sixteen years of no decision is too much. Having the loot in the possession and control of those charged for the plunder of the levy funds is even worse.—**GEN. VIRGILIO M. DAVID (ret.), Armed Forces of the Philippines and director, Philippine Coconut Authority Governing Board**

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The WORLD

LUVERNE B. GUECO, EDITOR

Israel warplanes bomb Palestinian police HQ

GAZA—Israeli warplanes bombed the Palestinian Authority's main police headquarters on Friday, wounding at least 18 people in fresh retaliation for deadly suicide attacks in the Jewish state.

The air strike in Gaza City, hub of the Palestinian-ruled Gaza Strip, reduced two four-story buildings to rubble, officials and witnesses said. Two huge explosions sent a large plume of smoke billowing over the area.

The impact of the blasts shook people out of their beds and shattered windows hundreds of meters from the scene.

Ambulances rushed the injured to hospital, and initial reports suggested most were lightly or moderately hurt.

Paramedics were still at the scene searching for other possible casualties.

The bombardment in the densely populated city marked the end of a two-day pause in Israel's air campaign against Palestinian security targets in response to Palestinian suicide bombings in Jerusalem and Haifa last weekend that killed 25 people.

The air strike occurred just hours before Israeli and Palestinian officials were due to relaunch US-brokered security talks that US peace envoy Anthony Zinni arranged after meeting leaders from both sides.

It appeared unlikely the talks would go ahead following the bombing, which added to the toll from one of the bloodiest weeks in 14 months of conflict.

Israel had warned it would step up its military strikes until Palestinian President Yasser Arafat acted against militants threatening the Jewish state's security.

As the warplanes were striking, troops backed by tanks launched incursions in the southern Gaza Strip and seized two men, Palestinian security officials said. They said one was a member of Palestinian intelligence.

The other was identified as a Palestinian journalist, who was arrested after soldiers were unable find his brother who belongs to a militant group, officials and family members said.

The Israeli Army had no immediate comment on the incident but said that Friday's air raid was aimed against "Palestinian Authority bodies that support and aid terrorist activity."

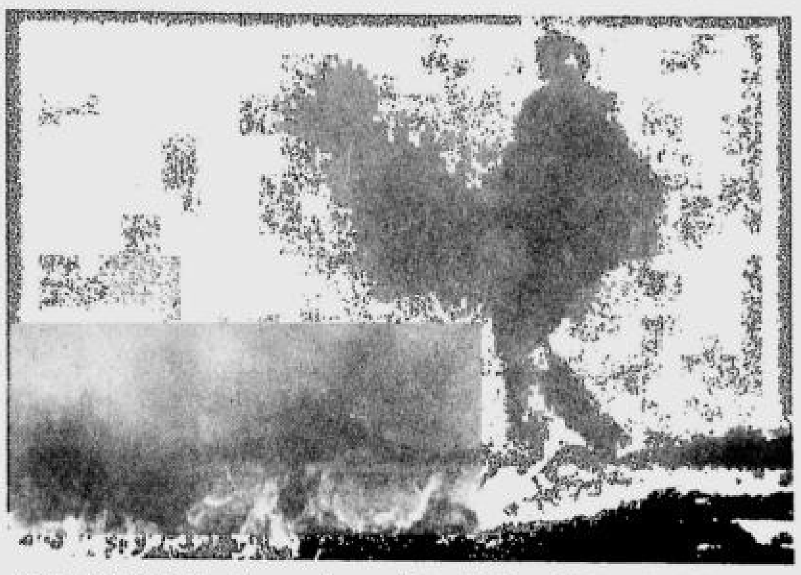
In Gaza, Palestinian public security chief, Major General Abdel-Razek al-Majaydeh, said: "The Israeli attack has destroyed our entire effort to restore calm . . . It will only lead to an escalation of tension."

Just the day before, Palestinian police, many from the same compound, had battled armed supporters of the militant Islamic group Hamas after Arafat put their spiritual leader, Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, under house arrest. One Hamas supporter was shot dead.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon has accused Arafat of making only token arrests in response to Israeli and US demands for a crackdown on militants behind a recent wave of attacks in the Jewish state.

But Arafat has said Israel's attacks on his security installations have hampered efforts to round up militants.

Reuters



A PALESTINIAN boy throws stones during clashes with Israeli soldiers near an Israeli tank on position in Betunia near the West Bank town of Ramallah Dec. 6.

REUTERS

Anthrax found at US Fed mail facility

WASHINGTON—The Federal Reserve Board that sets US interest rates and guides the world's most powerful economy, announced on Thursday that mail possibly contaminated with anthrax had been found at its off-site postal facility set up to head off suspect mail.

The discovery in a batch of 100 to 150 letters forced the Fed to cancel an open public board meeting on Friday that was scheduled to discuss banking measures.

However, Fed spokesperson Michelle Smith said there were no plans at this stage to cancel a more important private meeting next Tuesday when many economists expect the Fed, led by its chair Alan Greenspan, to decide again to lower interest rates. The Fed has so far lowered rates 10 times this year.

There were no details available on whether Greenspan was working at the Fed when the discovery was made.

"At this point the Fed has no plans to cancel or to postpone a scheduled Dec. 11 meeting of its policy-setting Federal Open Market Committee that sets US interest rates," Smith said.

The Fed was open for business but all public events have been canceled until further notice.

Since a mysterious wave of anthrax contamination surfaced in the United States last month, five people have died and 13 infected by a bacterium that can be used as a germ warfare agent.

Two lethal letters containing anthrax were sent to US senators on Capitol Hill in October, and media organizations in Florida and New York have also been targets of anthrax attacks.

There have also been a number of other cases in other locations which law enforcement officials believe are more likely linked to cross-contamination from the key letters.

The officials have not ruled out a connection to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network, chief suspect in Sept. 11's hijacked plane attacks on the United States.

Reuters

UN Security Council okays Afghan deal

UNITED NATIONS—The UN Security Council gave its overall support Thursday to a power-sharing agreement for a temporary post-Taliban government but did not immediately authorize the deployment of a multinational force.

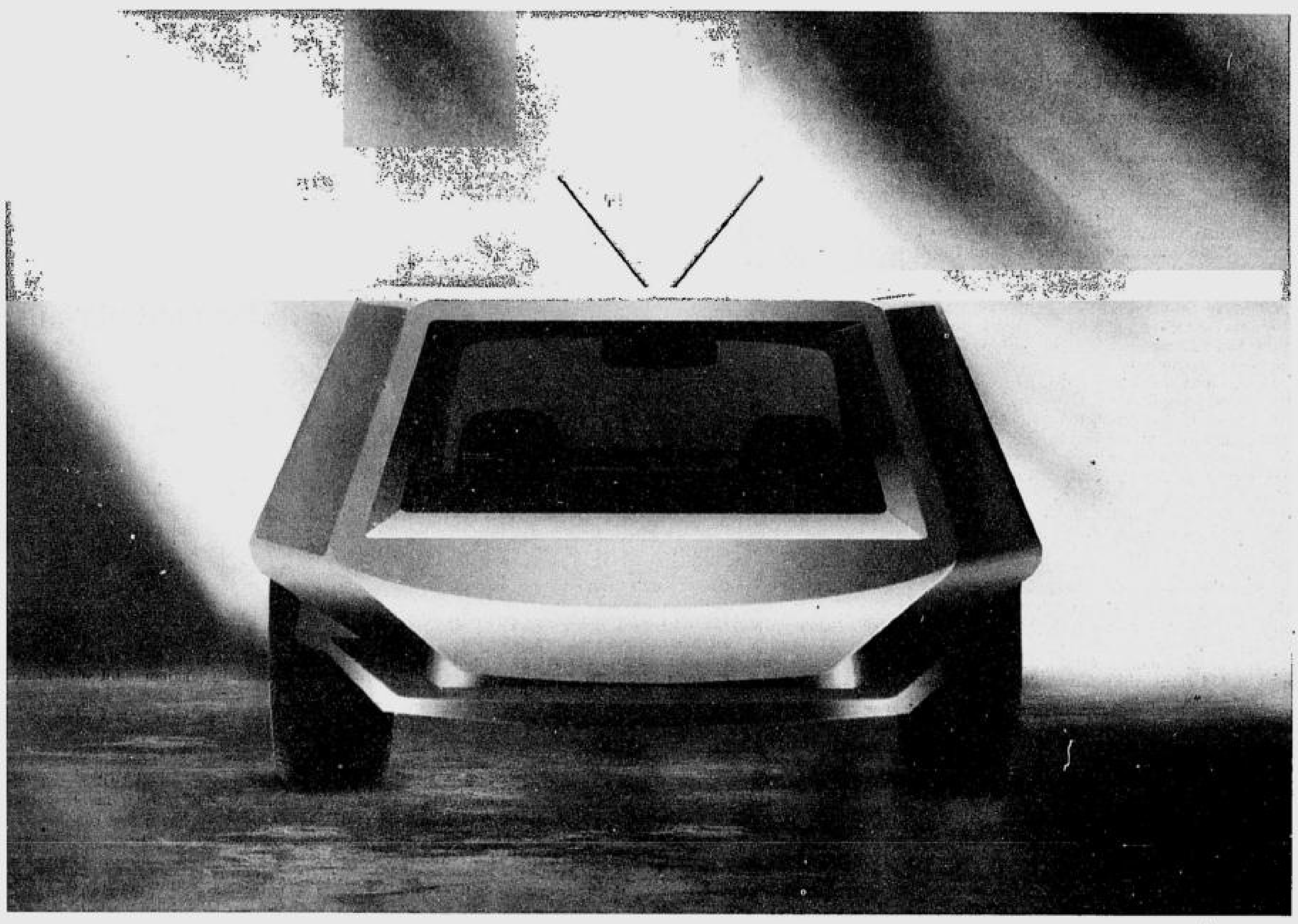
In a resolution adopted unanimously, the council said it is determined to help the Afghan people establish lasting peace and national reconciliation after more than two decades of war, and to cooperate with the international community "to put an end to the use of Afghanistan as a base for terrorism."

The resolution endorses the agreement signed Wednesday by four Afghan factions in Bonn, Germany. It urges all Afghan groups to implement it "in full," and declares that the council is willing to take further action to ensure it is carried out.

The UN-brokered agreement calls for a 30-member interim authority to govern Afghanistan for six months, starting Dec. 22. The former king will then convene a traditional tribal council, or loya jirga, to ratify a transitional government, paving the way for elections within two years. The agreement asks the Security Council to authorize a multinational force to assist in maintaining security, initially in the capital Kabul and possibly elsewhere later.

The United States wanted to include a reference to the force in the resolution, to cover any troops that wanted to go into Kabul quickly, diplomats said. But other council members objected, saying they wanted a number of questions answered first. So there is no mention of a force in the resolution that was adopted.

AP



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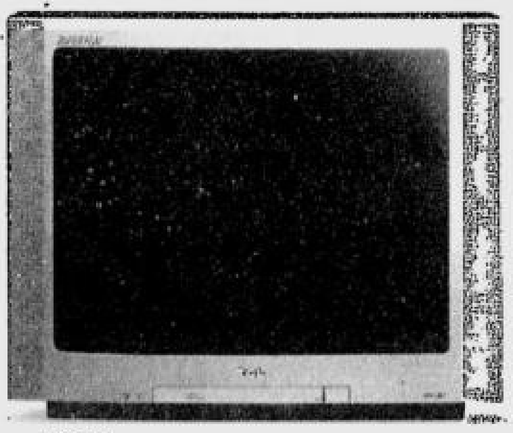

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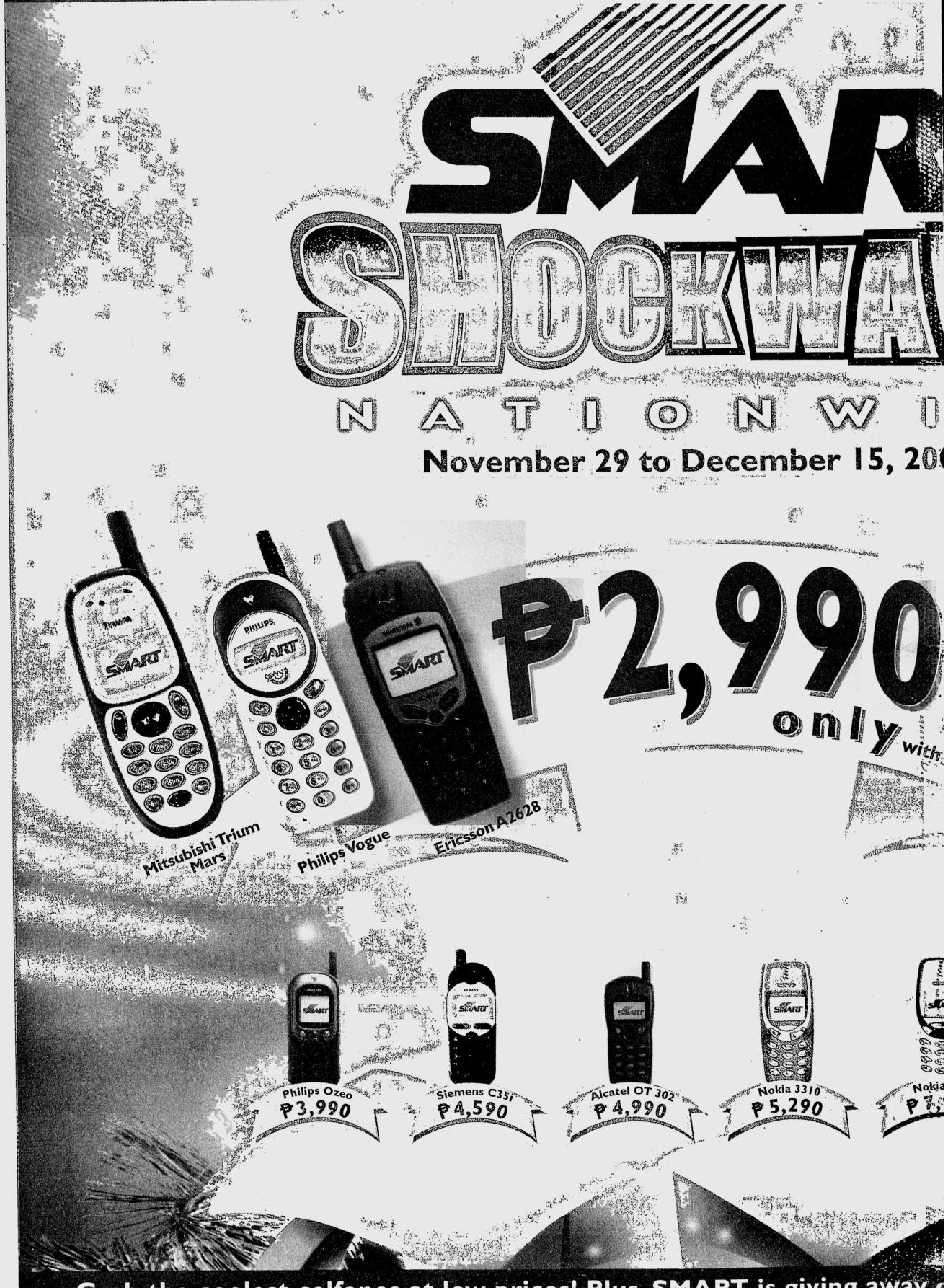

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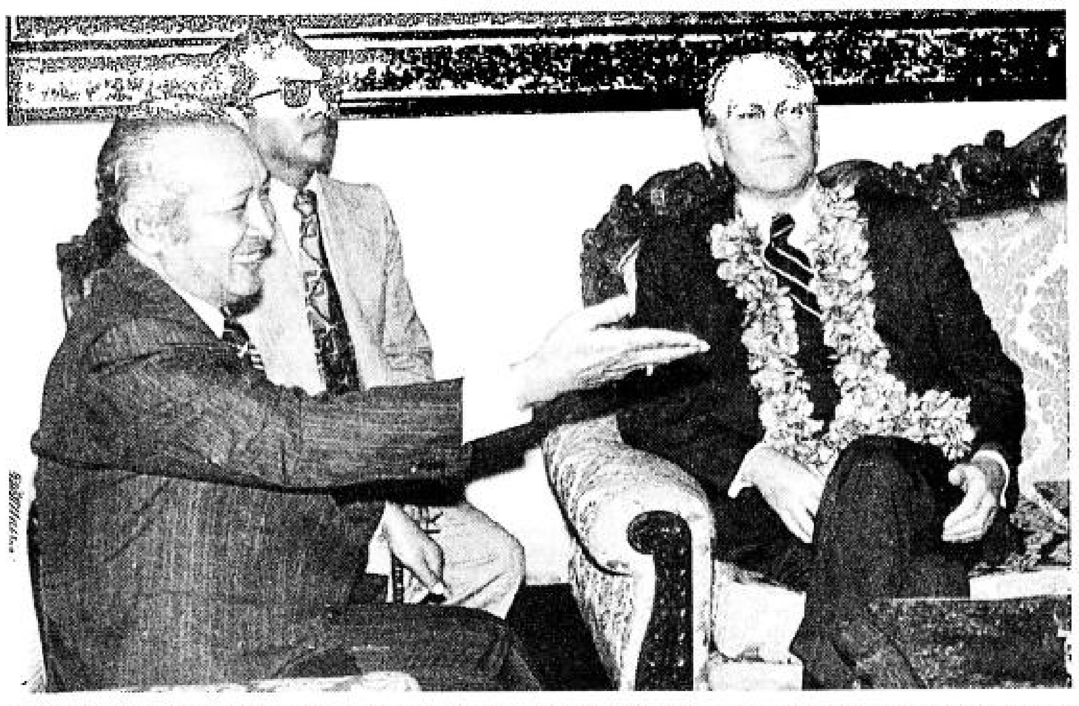
RELEASED SECRET DOCUMENTS

US endorsed Indonesia's E. Timor invasion



FORMER American President Gerald Ford (right) meets with former Indonesian President Suharto (left) at the presidential palace in Jakarta in this Dec. 6, 1975 file photo. Ford and Secretary of State Henry Kissinger gave the then Indonesian strongman Suharto the green light for the 1975 invasion of East Timor which left perhaps 200,000 dead, according to previously secret documents made available on Dec. 6. REUTERS

WASHINGTON—The United States offered full and direct approval to Indonesia's 1975 invasion of East Timor, a move by then-president Suharto which consigned the territory to 25 years of oppression, official documents released Thursday show.

The documents prove conclusively for the first time that the United States gave a "green light" to the invasion, the opening salvo in an occupation that cost the lives of up to 200,000 East Timorese.

General Suharto briefed US President Gerald Ford and his secretary of state Henry Kissinger on his plans for the former Portuguese colony hours before the invasion, according to documents collected by George Washington University's National Security Archive.

When Ford and Kissinger called in Jakarta on their way back from a summit in Beijing on Dec. 6, 1975, Suharto claimed that in the interests of Asia and regional stability, he had to bring stability to East Timor, to which Portugal was trying to grant autonomy.

"We want your understanding if we deem it necessary to take rapid or drastic action," Suharto told his visitors, according to a long classified state department cable.

Ford replied: "We will understand and will not press you on the issue. We understand the problem you have and the intentions you have."

Kissinger, who has denied the subject of Timor came up during the talks, appeared to be concerned about the domestic political implications of an Indonesian invasion.

"It is important that whatever you do succeeds quickly, we would be able to influence the reaction in America if whatever happens, happens after we return.

"The president will be back on Monday at 2 p.m. Jakarta time. We understand your problem and the need to move quickly but I am only saying that it would be better, if it were done after we returned."

The invasion took place on Dec. 7, the day after the Ford-Suharto meeting.

Kissinger has consistently rejected criticism of the Ford administration's conduct on East Timor.

During a launch in 1995 for his book "Diplomacy," Kissinger said at a New York hotel it was perhaps "regrettable" that for US officials, the implications of Indonesia's Timor policy were lost in a blizzard of geopolitical issues following the Vietnam War.

"Timor was never discussed with us when we were in Indonesia," Kissinger said, according to a transcript of the meeting distributed by the East Timor Action network—which advocated independence for East Timor.

"At the airport as we were leaving, the Indonesians told us that they were going to occupy the Portuguese colony of Timor. To us that did not seem like a very significant event."

The documents also show that Kissinger was concerned at the use of US weapons by Indonesia during the East Timor invasion.

By law, the arms could only be used in self defense, but it appears that Kissinger was concerned mostly on the interpretation of the legislation—not the use of the weapons.

"It depends on how we construe it, whether it is in self-defense or is a foreign operation," he is quoted as saying.

The eastern part of the island of Timor, situated north of the Australian coast, was invaded by Jakarta in 1975 and annexed the following year. *AFP*

Gunman kills 2, wounds 6 in Indiana factory

GOSHEN, Ind.—A man described as a disgruntled employee opened fire inside an Indiana plastics factory on Thursday, killing one person and wounding six before taking his own life, police said.

Heavily armed officers surrounded the Nu-Wood Decorative Millwork building in a tense standoff that lasted nearly two hours as worried family members arrived amid initial reports that as many 35 people might have been shot.

But with more than a dozen ambulances standing by and local hospitals placed on alert for mass casualties, police entered the building to find the gunman dead by his own hand in the latest of a series of workplace shootings in the United States that have taken dozens of lives.

Goshen Police Chief Terry Schollian told a news conference an employee inside the factory called a police emergency line to report the shooting. He said most of the workers were able to flee when the shooting started but one man hid in an office and police remained in contact with him by telephone until they entered the building.

Schollian said one factory worker died in the attack and the gunman turned a weapon, apparently a shotgun, on himself. He said no identities would be released until later.

The Goshen News quoted a witness as saying the gunman got into an argument with a co-worker and was then ordered to take a couple of days off. He made a threat at that time and returned about three and a half hours later with a gun.

Goshen General Hospital spokesperson Donna Rohrer said it had received six victims from the shooting, two of whom were airlifted to a regional trauma center in Fort Wayne. Two others were in fair condition, one was treated and released and one was still being evaluated in the emergency room.

The wife of the factory's general manager told WNDU-TV in South Bend the company checked into having a court issue a restraining order against him but was told it would take several days. Officials at the factory, however, were instructed to alert police if he returned, she said. *Reuters*

Survivors mark 60th year of Pearl Harbor attack

PEARL HARBOR, Hawaii—Kunio Iwashita, a Japanese Zero fighter pilot during World War II, says it was only on Sept. 11—six decades after the attack on Pearl Harbor—that he realized how Americans must have felt back then.

"I was very impressed with all the flags on buildings and cars, with the patriotism Americans showed after Sept. 11," said the octogenarian Iwashita, who was visiting relatives in Boston that day. "I realized what a big, strong country America is. I had no idea about that" in 1941.

Iwashita, who flew against Americans in the Pacific and heads a group of fellow Japanese World War II fighter pilots, was among veterans from both sides gathered for Friday's 60th anniversary of the most infamous sneak attack of the 20th century.

This year, the gathering takes place in the shadow of another war, triggered by the surprise attacks on America that have been likened to Pearl Harbor.

At a Pearl Harbor event on Wednesday, fellow veterans applauded as Iwashita embraced one of his former enemies—Jim Daniels, 86, of Kailua, Hawaii. They all shook hands and stood at attention as a bugler played taps at the close of a three-day seminar on war issues.

Dozens of survivors will gather Friday for a US Navy service aboard the USS Arizona Memorial, held each year at 7:50 a.m. local time, the time the Dec. 7, 1941, attack began. Later in the morning, about 3,000 people—including an estimated 800 Pearl Harbor survivors—will attend a service at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific.

US President George W. Bush will mark the anniversary across the country with a speech aboard an aircraft carrier in Norfolk, Virginia. *AP*

Japan's little princess bathed, named 'Aiko' in ancient rituals

TOKYO—A week after she was born, the newest member of Japan's royal family was bathed and named Princess Aiko in elaborate, century-old court rituals on Friday.

The nation has been in high spirits since Crown Princess Masako gave birth to the baby girl Saturday, her first child since she and Crown Prince Naruhito wed more than eight years ago.

Tens of thousands of well-wishers held festivities outside the gates of the Imperial Palace earlier this week, and congratulations have poured in from around the world.

The Imperial Household Agency has said mother and daughter are healthy, but hasn't yet offered much information or released any pictures of the newborn.

On Friday, however, the public was treated to daylong pageantry beginning with the princess' bathing ritual. A first glimpse of the baby was expected Saturday, when Masako, 37, will leave the palace hospital, national broadcaster NHK said.

In a carefully choreographed ceremony, a royal attendant poured water over the infant, as scholars in ancient court dress plucked at strings of wooden bows to ward off evil spirits and a court-appointed official read from an 8th century Japanese history text.

After its bath, the baby was named Aiko and given the royal title Toshi-no-miya, said palace spokesperson Hirofumi Oka. In a break with tradition, the name was chosen by the baby's parents, instead of by the emperor.

Taken from the teachings of the Chinese philosopher Mencius, Aiko—written with the characters for "love" and "child"—refers to a virtuous person. Mencius, a Confucian moralist who lived from 372-289 BC, stressed the goodness of human nature.

"A person who always loves others is loved. A person who always respects others is respected," Oka said.

Japan's royal household has observed bathing and naming rituals for centuries. Scholars say the rituals have evolved over time, with the ceremonies in their current form dating back to the late 1800s and early 1900s.

Traditionally, the emperor picks a name from several choices proposed by scholars of Chinese literature and Japanese history before informing the crown prince and the crown princess, who are excluded from the process. *AP*

JAPANESE historian Kota Kodama (left) reads while Tsunenari Tokugawa and Toshiyasu Maeda (right) bow during a rehearsal of an imperial court ritual to mark the bathing of the then soon-to-be-born baby princess in this photo taken in Tokyo Nov. 8. REUTERS/IMPERIAL HOUSEHOLD AGENCY

Cambodia squatter settlement set on fire

PHNOM PENH—At least one of two massive fires that left up to 20,000 squatters homeless in Phnom Penh may have been started by "flaming torches" fired from a boat in the Bassac river, a report said Friday.

The Phnom Penh Post quoted settlement residents as saying fireballs resembling fireworks were seen in the air before landing in their camp, housing mostly ethnic Vietnamese, that ignited late on Nov. 27.

"I saw a boat, and then I saw fire flying into the air. I don't know what boat it was but it was very fast, made of wood with an engine," one resident, who was not named, told the bi-monthly newspaper.

"In the dark I saw the flame fly in from the boat in the middle of the river. The flame was very long with a fireball. The fireball landed on (Thanh's) house and it caught fire."

Nguyen van Thanh was the sole death reported in that fire, on land earmarked for redevelopment, and police insist Thanh had accidentally started the blaze when his gas bottle exploded.

Other residents also said Thanh's house was hit by a flying fireball and added that Thanh did not own a gas bottle. *AFP*

Study: Mars' ice caps eroding

WASHINGTON—Vast fields of carbon dioxide ice are eroding from the poles of Mars, suggesting that the climate of the Red Planet is warming and the atmosphere is becoming slightly more dense.

Experts say that, over time, such changes could allow water to return to the Martian surface and turn the frigid planet into a "shirt-sleeve environment."

Michael A. Caplinger, a scientist with Malin Space Science Systems, said that if the rate of carbon dioxide erosion from the Mars poles were to continue for thousands of years, "then it could profoundly amend the climate of Mars.

"You would go from having to wear a spacesuit to just wearing a coat and an oxygen atmosphere," he said.

Caplinger is co-author of a study appearing in the journal Science that analyzes photos of Mars taken by an orbiting spacecraft. The photos were taken in 1999 and in 2001, spanning a period of time that represents one Martian year. Mars is farther from the sun than the Earth and it takes the Red Planet about 23 months to complete one year, a single solar orbit.

Observers have long known that, in the Martian winter, there is a snow of carbon dioxide caused when temperatures plunge and the gas freezes out of Mars' thin atmosphere.

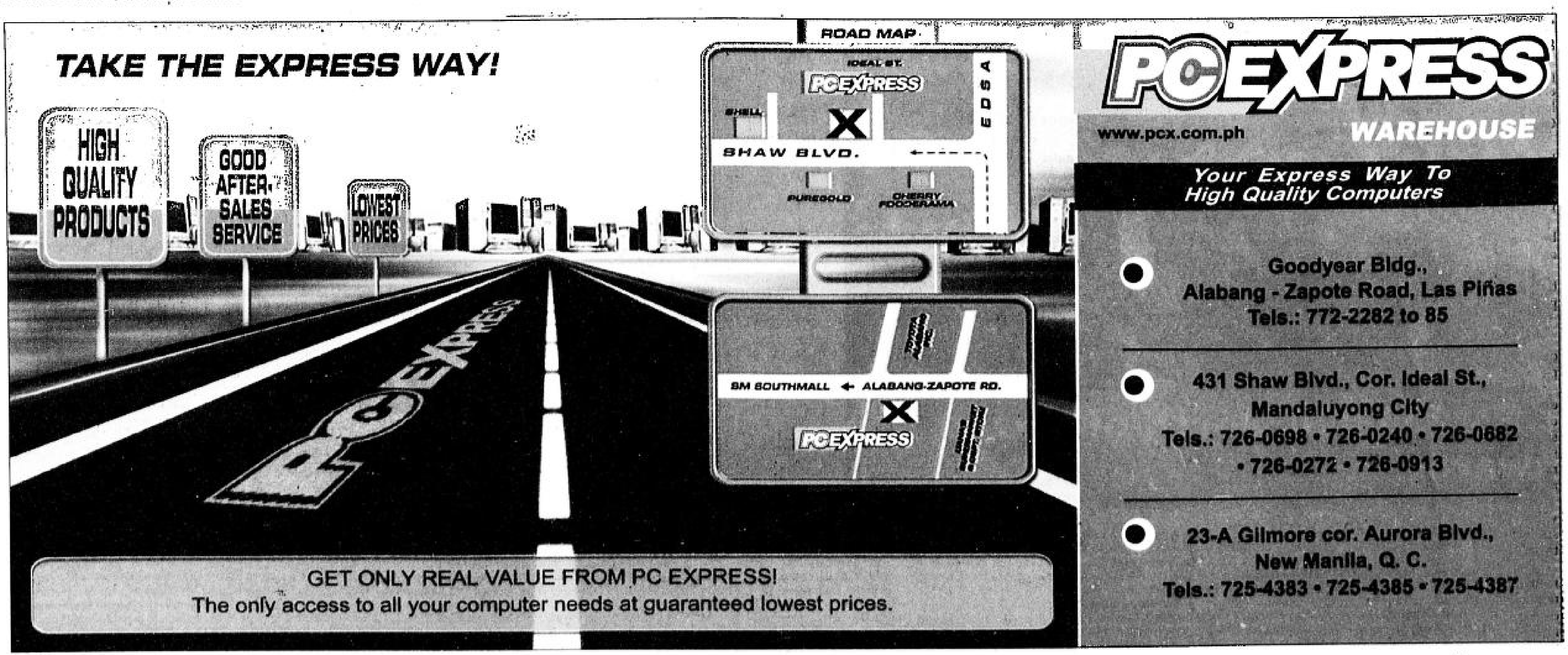
But the new study suggests that a dense cap of frozen carbon dioxide thought to be permanent at each of the Mars poles may not be all that permanent, said Caplinger.

"It is eroding away at a rapid pace and is going to continue to do that," he said. "This is not a seasonal change."

He said the photos suggested that the polar caps were dense slabs of frozen carbon dioxide that may have been deposited over centuries, much the way seasonal snow on Earth accumulates to form a glacier.

"This stuff has been there for quite a while," he said. "It is packed down and very smooth. We don't see evidence that it is blowing around or drifting."

Instead, said Caplinger, the glacier-like carbon dioxide ice was eroding, rather like the way a glacier melts on Earth. *AP*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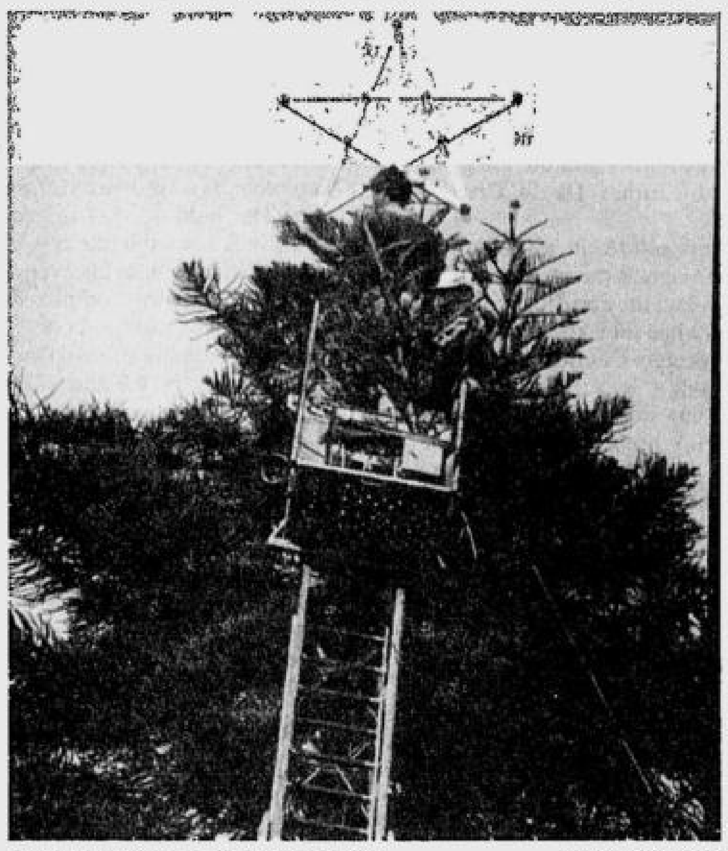

SPRUCING UP BAGUIO TOOTS SOBERANO

There's no more natural place to decorate Christmas trees than Baguio City where pine trees are common, but not as abundant as in the past.

More tribal groups protest DENR head

BUTUAN CITY—More tribal associations representing different tribal communities in Mindanao aired their opposition to the confirmation of Heherson Alvarez as environment secretary.

And even officials of the National Commission for the Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) said they were backing the tribal peoples' opposition to Alvarez.

"We are left with no choice but to stand by the people and shout with the people. The position of the NCIP would always be in favor of the indigenous peoples because our role is to protect their rights," NCIP Commissioner Norma Gomoz said.

Elvira Catuburan, NCIP-Caraga information chief, admitted that regional director Domingo Pareja Jr. has also submitted his opposition to Alvarez's appointment.

"We are not anti-development, what we are clamoring for is respect for our rights which Alvarez continues to violate," Catuburan said.

ALVAREZ

She also urged tribal communities in the region to defend their ancestral rights.

Oscar Tanâ, deputy chair of the Kahugpongan sa Lumadnong Organisasyon (Alliance of Indigenous Community Organizations) or Kasalo in Northern Mindanao, said Alvarez showed his disrespect to their ancestral rights when he signed the Integrated Forest Management Agreement (Ifma) involving five multinational companies in Agusan del Sur.

The Ifma, he said, covered 128,000 hectares of ancestral lands.

Kasalo is composed of at least six tribal groups representing the Manobo, Banwaon, Higaonon, Talaandig, Matigsalog and Mamanwa tribes in six provinces of Northern Mindanao.

Tanâ said they are already drafting a petition for submission to the Commission on Appointments (CA) urging the CA to reject Alvarez's appointment.

Earlier, the Tagdumahan Banwaon Organization also sent a petition letter against Alvarez appointment.

But a Manobo *datu* tried to downplay them as a minority organization in letters he sent to various dailies, including the INQUIRER.

Datu Sumidlak of the Kahugpongan sa Tribong Lumad sa Caraga (Tribal People Organization of Caraga) or Katrilcar had claimed that on the contrary, the tribal people have been eagerly awaiting the entry of the firms as these would help alleviate their poverty.

But Datu Kaagumon, a member of the Katrilcar Board of Directors, said Sumidlak did not consult other officials when he sent those letters.

"If he wants to sell his tribe, he should not involve us," Kaagumon said.

Another large *lumad* group, the Tribal Coalition of Mindanao (Tricom) wrote Senate President and CA chair Franklin Drilon expressing the same opposition against Alvarez.

"On behalf of 600,000 indigenous people, we the undersigned leaders, tribal *datus* and rebel surrenderees within the different tribal communities in Mindanao belonging to Tricom, very strongly and vehemently oppose the confirmation of Mr. Heherson Alvarez as Secretary of the DENR," the letter read. ***Ma. Kristina Cassion, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

LGUs use own tack on birth control plans

BY YOLANDA FUERTES
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

LINGAYEN, Pangasinan—Without a clear policy from the government and with meager funding support for local population programs, local officials have come up with "gimmicks" to finance and "sell" their family planning programs in their towns and provinces.

In Bambang, Nueva Vizcaya, for instance, elected officials serve as models to enhance male involvement in reproductive health, according to Antonio Cortez, municipal health and population officer of Bambang.

Cortez presented the efforts of his town in promoting population programs during the 2001 National Population Congress last week in Pasig City.

"We have a basketball team named 'Reproductive Health' and the cheering squad shouts '*Mag*-family planning *tayo*' and '*Mahal ko asawa ko, 'di ko sasaktan*,' during the games," he said.

The team often loses but it goes a long way in pushing the population program, he said.

Church role

Cortez, however, did not elaborate if the local Catholic Church, a major critic of the government's artificial family planning methods, is criticizing their programs.

San Fernando City Mayor Mary Jane Ortega said the two structures that influence local government behavior in fertility regulation—the national government and the church and the conflict between the government and the church on population policy — have created a "no-policy situation," which is not good for local governance.

In Pangasinan, Gov. Victor Agbayani said that instead of being at odds with Catholic Church officials about population programs, he decided to "befriend" them and make them partners in the programs' implementation.

Agbayani said an agreement between the Church leadership and the local government seeks Church support in the promotion of natural family planning as a viable alternative to the artificial family planning methods.

He explained that since the country is predominantly Catholic, local officials could not ignore religion's influence on the people's decisions on fertility.

Work, faith

"We have to reconcile our work with our faith and look for common grounds," Agbayani said.

While affected by lack of financial support from the national government, local officials agreed that "reducing unwanted pregnancy (in their localities) is good politics."

"That is also good economics and sound fiscal practice. This is something that we in the local governments are trying to realize by integrating the population dimension in all our development efforts," Ortega said.

She explained that high infant mortality rate, high malnutrition rate, high incidence of abortion and more local expenditures due to unmet needs in family planning or unwanted pregnancies are realities that local government officials deal with everyday.

"If an infant die and the family cannot afford the burial expenses, our people come to us for financial assistance.

If a mother is suffering from complication from birth and she cannot afford the expenses, we end up paying for the expenses," Ortega said.

Policy clear

But Tomas Osias, Commission on Population director, denied that the national government has no policy on population.

He cited President Macapagal-Arroyo's statement during the 2001 Asia-pacific Conference on Reproductive Health that the government has the "responsibility to provide information on medically safe and socially acceptable means to address our high birth rate and its consequences on maternal and child health as well as population growth."

A local official, however, described the policy as vague and local governments are left to formulate strategies and set goals on population programs on their own.

"In a way, this is better because the local governments have more leeway in the program implementation, but the burden is there because, for instance, we cannot disregard the Church's stand on family planning because the President does not want to go against that institution," the official said.

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Legislator won't let US Embassy off visa error

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—Negros Occidental Rep. Jose Apolinario Lozada of the fifth district is demanding a public apology from the United States Embassy in Manila for canceling his 10-year visa for no apparent reason.

Lozada, House committee chair on foreign affairs, said a certain Deputy Consul General Martin of the US Embassy had already apologized to him on Wednesday.

But he said it was not enough. "I want a public one (apology)," he said.

"I am complaining because I do not like the way the US Embassy treats Filipinos who apply for visas to their country," he said.

"If they could do that to me they could do it to anybody," he said.

Lozada only learned early this week that the US Embassy had canceled his US visa.

The congressman had asked the American embassy in October to transfer his valid US visa from his old passport to his new one because the page that carried the visa had come loose.

Instead of granting his request, Lozada was informed that his visa had been cancelled "without prejudice."

But Lozada said "without prejudice" means nothing.

A visa, he added, is usually cancelled when the person holding it is considered "persona non grata" by the issuing country.

The congressman said he had gone to the United States many times but he had never violated the terms of the visa granted to him.

Before he joined politics, Lozada was with the diplomatic service for 21 years. He was also presidential adviser on foreign affairs under the administration of ex-President Fidel Ramos.

CONTRACTOR'S COMPLAINT

More Dagupan fund scams unearthed

By Yolanda Fuertes
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

DAGUPAN CITY—The city council has unearthed more irregularities implicating the same people involved in the P16-million cash advance scam earlier investigated by the council.

In a privilege speech on Monday, Councilor Teofilo Guadiz III said the irregularities involved the "mishandled" renovation of the Sangguniang Panlungsod building office and toilets worth more than P700,000.

Guadiz said Basilio Solano Jr., who owns the Solano Construction firm, sought his help to expose the alleged misuse of his company's name and contractor's license by Isidro Melendez and Freddy de la Cruz, both staffers of the city council, in June last year.

The council earlier recommended the preventive suspension and the filing of charges against Melendez and De la Cruz with the Ombudsman for their involvement in the P16-million cash advance scam here.

But the two, along with the staff of the city council and the city treasurer's office earlier identified as involved in the cash advance scam, are still reporting for work. The cases against them have yet to be filed.

Guadiz said Solano refused to have his license used but was assured by Melendez that the project had the blessing of former Vice Mayor Teodoro Manaois.

"So (Solano) agreed to have his license and company name used," Guadiz said.

The first payment for the projects, a check for P401,820, was supposed to be made payable to Solano Construction. However, it was De la Cruz who encashed the check after Solano signed and endorsed it.

The contractor was also asked to sign the project's certificate of completion with his signature allegedly forged by either De la Cruz or Melendez.

"They made it appear that (Solano) signed the request for inspection and the certificate of completion (when they know fully) well that the project was never finished," Guadiz said.

It did not stop there, Guadiz said.

Melendez and De la Cruz "borrowed" again Solano's license for the repair of the city council building's two toilets worth P320,000.

Although the repair was not completed, Melendez and De la Cruz again asked Solano to sign the checks and certificate of completion.

"The projects were marred from the start. The bidding was rigged. The certificates of completion as well as the acceptance were made even if the projects were not completed. Other names were used to conceal their scheme of taking money from the city government," Solano said in his affidavit.

Solano, however, did not give any reason in his affidavit why he was exposing the scam.

GOING BANANAS RYAN LIM

Bananas virtually flood the sidewalks around the Bankerohan Public Market in Davao City to the delight of fruit lovers.

60 farmers storm DAR office over CARP delay

DAVAO CITY—At least 60 farmer beneficiaries on Monday stormed the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) regional office demanding that the central office decide on their case pending at the adjudication board.

Alejandro Hermosilla, board member of the Checkered Employees Farmers Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Association Inc. (CEFARBAI), said they can no longer wait for DAR undersecretary for operations Efren Moncopa to again postpone his decision on their case.

"He has already promised us a decision six times, the last time was in the first week of October," he said.

The farmers forcibly entered the gate about 1:45 p.m. Monday after DAR security guard Henry Villabeto was instructed by management to let a certain Fernando Cariño in.

Villabeto said the instruction was to allow only 15 people to enter and participate in a dialogue with DAR regional director Eduardo Suaybaguio.

"But the dialogue was in the morning and we even counted 15 people to enter the premises," he said.

The security guard suffered scratches and bruises in his arms when the farmers tried to force their way in.

On June 11, at least eight beneficiaries of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (Carp) and a janitor at the DAR regional office were wounded when two DAR security guards fired their firearms to disperse 150 farmers.

The CARP beneficiaries reportedly wanted to padlock the main gate of the DAR regional office here on Monday.

The protesters belonging to different organizations under the Ugnayan Kapatiran ng mga Nagsasariling Organisasyon sa Kanyunan (Unorka) were expecting a decision on the case they filed before the DAR office on Jan. 18 in time for CARP's 13th anniversary.

In a dialogue with farmers on June 12, Moncopa promised to fast track the decision on the Tadeco-owned Worldwide Agricultural Development Corp. (Wadecor).

Moncopa even promised the farmers that a decision will be out in July and if DAR will not come out with a decision, the farmers can padlock the gates of the DAR regional office again. *Joel Escovilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Agents start hunt for rice smugglers

COTABATO CITY—Operatives of the Presidential Anti-Smuggling Task Force backed by military agents have started tracking down persons involved in a foiled smuggling of some 50,000 bags of Vietnamese rice in Maguindanao.

Maj. Julieto Ando, spokesperson of the Army's 6th Infantry Division, said Col. Antonio Romero, 603rd brigade chief, has deployed enough soldiers to ensure that the confiscated goods remained in the Polloc Port yard in Maguindanao.

"The practice of sneaking in imported items has been going on in Polloc Port," Ando told reporters.

He said charges were being prepared against the rice cargo's consignee and the people responsible for the smuggling of imported items.

He refused to identify the consignee.

Lawyer Luciano Millan of the Malacañang-based anti-smuggling task force said smuggling deprived the government of millions of pesos in revenue.

He added that no one came forward to claim the rice shipment.

Edwin Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau

BOOST TO LGU POWER

Erap quarry order declared illegal

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—A proclamation that deposed President Joseph Estrada issued in 1999 is not a valid basis for the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and its corporate arm, the Natural Resources Development Corp., to collect quarry taxes in Pampanga.

This was the ruling issued last Dec. 5 by Judge Lamberto Daing Jr. of the regional trial court here who said it is the provincial government that has regulatory power over the quarry industry and to levy taxes.

Daing issued a preliminary injunction on the implementation of Proclamation No. 66 issued by Estrada.

He also ordered the provincial government to put up a bond of P300,000 to cover the cost of possible damages that might arise during the injunction period.

Daing's decision came more than a year after the provincial government questioned the validity of the proclamation allowing the DENR and the NRDC to impose and collect quarry taxes.

The respondents were former Executive Secretary Ronaldo Zamora, former Environment Secretary Antonio Cerilles and NRDC officials.

The proclamation declared "lahar-affected rivers and embankment areas in Pampanga, Tarlac and Zambales as environmentally critical areas and as mineral reservation under the direct supervision and control of the DENR." Estrada issued the proclamation on Jan. 11, 1999 on the heels of reported irregularities in the collection of quarry taxes by the provincial government.

In his eight-page decision, Daing said "the declaration of authority to impose taxes on quarry operations of sand and extracted from public lands, etc. by respondents are erroneous."

Mining laws such as Presidential Decree 1586, Proclamation No. 2146 and Republic Act 7942 on which Proclamation No. 66 was based did not give such powers, he said.

He said there was "also nothing" in the provisions of RA 7942 or the Mining Act of 1995 which could be construed as authority for the DENR and the NRDC to "impose a tax on quarry operations of sand and gravel on areas declared as mineral reservations."

Daing said the provisions "merely grant" the DENR secretary the "authority to establish mineral reservations and to undertake mining operations there at by itself or through a contractor."

He said there was also no law that repealed provisions in the Local Government Code that ensures the regulatory power of the governor over local quarry areas.

He said the Mining Act of 1995 did not repeal this power by the local government. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The whole country will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and isolated thunderstorms.

SOURCE: **PAGASA**

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 32° Lo 23°
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 22° Lo 15°
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 30° Lo 18°
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 32° Lo 23°
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 31° Lo 21°
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 29° Lo 21°
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 29° Lo 24°
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 29° Lo 22°
Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 30° Lo 24°
Roxas	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 30° Lo 24°
Cebu	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 32° Lo 24°
Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 29° Lo 23°
Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 31° Lo 23°
Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 32° Lo 24°
Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 32° Lo 23°
Davao	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 31° Lo 25°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/12/08/01

ROUNDUP

Honors for Baguio founders

BAGUIO CITY—A 60-foot obelisk honoring this city's founders will be put up near the Baguio Convention Center. The project's launching was held Dec. 7 by city officials and members of the Baguio Pioneers Historical Society Inc. Funds for the project will be raised from donations, mostly from Baguio residents here and abroad. The obelisk is scheduled for completion in time for the city's 93rd charter anniversary celebrations on Sept. 1 next year. *Jethsel Allego and Joann Laguitao, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Singson brother's denial

VIGAN CITY—For the first time, the younger brother of "juetengate" whistleblower Luis "Chavit" Singson denied the accusation of Sen. Panfilo Lacson that he was running jueteng operations in Ilocos Norte. "I categorically deny any involvement in jueteng as claimed by Senator Lacson," Jose "Bonito" Singson told the INQUIRER. He accused Lacson of using him in the senator's battle against his brother Chavit. "I am forced to speak out for the first time because of the repeated mention of my alleged involvement in jueteng which is not true," he said. *Leoncio Balbin Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Dog ordinance

BANGUED, Abra—Following 18 deaths in Abra due to dog bites this year, the provincial board has proposed an ordinance requiring dog owners to register, leash and subject their pets to immunization. Provincial officials said the proposed ordinance aims to make Abra a "rabies-free" zone by 2004. Records showed that more than 200 Abra residents became victims of dog bites from January to November this year. *Leoncio Balbin Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

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Boredom toughest foe of NBI witnesses

DIPOLOG CITY—Potential Nida Blanca slay witness Meliton Vizcaya needs to beat his boredom while he is under the custody of the National Bureau of Investigation for him to sustain his enthusiasm in helping lawmen solve the celebrated murder case.

Lawyer Oscar Tomarong, supervising agent at the NBI sub-office here, said conditions of witnesses in NBI custody "would seem monotonous for the uninitiated."

"No television. You would be lucky if you have a companion (to talk with) in order to while away the time," Tomarong said as he described the NBI quarters for witnesses.

"But you have to get used to it. That is designed in order to shield the witnesses from external pressures that could break (his) determination to testify in a case, especially in a sensational one," he said.

Tomarong said only a witness' strong will could help Vizcaya face boredom under NBI custody.

Vizcaya, who claimed that Blanca could have been killed as early as August if he accepted an offer to kill her, was earlier reported to have slipped out of NBI custody.

However, Tomarong said the former soldier only wanted a respite from the hectic schedule that was given him in connection with his testimony.

On the first day of evaluating his testimony, Vizcaya and the NBI called it a day at 10 in the evening.

"I have told him of the situation when he will be there, and I have conditioned him to beat it, and he sounds determined," Tomarong said of his conversation with Vizcaya before they left for Manila Nov. 24.

Early on, Vizcaya's revelation was already met with enthusiasm by the NBI, even as self-confessed killer Philip Medel was hogging the headlines.

Another potential source of stress for Vizcaya is his utmost concern for his family back in Ozamiz City. Hours before his departure, Vizcaya had wanted to talk to his wife over the phone. He said that his family occupied his mind most of the time.

While still in Ozamiz City on the evening of Nov. 23, Vizcaya's wife wanted him to back down. He related that in their private conversation, his wife told him to refrain from testifying.

Vizcaya told the INQUIRER that he was also worrying about his 15-year-old daughter, the youngest of his four children. She attends classes in a public school several kilometers from their home in a village in Ozamiz City.

"*Gihunahuna ko karon ba ang iyang balon, pamasahe. Wala man gud to silay gisaligan ako lang* (I am thinking about her pocket money, her fare. They do not have somebody to lean on. I am the only breadwinner)," he quipped.

But he said he was determined to help.

The INQUIRER learned that Vizcaya's cigarette consumption has increased while in Manila.

The former Army sergeant first came into the limelight when he revealed in a radio interview that he was the first one to be offered the job of killing Blanca.

Vizcaya said Liza, a lesbian whom he met after a cell phone snatching incident in Quezon City, offered him P100,000 in August to kill Blanca "*isang artista na matanda na at madaling tepokin* (an old actress who's easy to kill)." ***Ryan Rosauro, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Women want bigger role in Mindanao plans

DAVAO CITY—Apparently fed up with being constantly ignored, *lumad*, Christian, and Muslim women leaders will form the Mindanao Commission on Women to gain clout and have a say in the development of Mindanao.

More than 100 women leaders from all over Mindanao were scheduled to converge on Thursday to draw up not just "another agenda for Mindanao but design a practical, doable, and immediately implementable plan using existing or promised resources from government and other donors."

The three-day conference will focus on four strategic areas such as health, education, livelihood and good governance.

In the same conference, they will create the Mindanao Commission on Women with representatives from the six regions of Mindanao.

Irene Santiago, convenor of the conference, said the commission on women would ensure that programs for the development of Mindanao, especially for women, will be "immediately implemented."

"This is an idea whose time has come," she said.

To do this, The Mindanao Fund for Women worth $500,000 will be created, the disbursement of which will be facilitated by the commission.

With the money, the needs of women for economic development will be given without a long gestation period and bureaucracy.

"We will also create a mechanism for the evaluation and monitoring of the programs," she added.

The initial amount for the raising of the fund will come from the contribution of the women themselves.

But Santiago said some foreign funding agencies, although she refused to name them, have already made commitments to provide financial assistance for the fund.

In their discussions, the women leaders have decided to make the commission a non-government organization so the facilitation of funds for any livelihood programs would be faster and easier.

Santiago said women are not consulted in any plan for the development of Mindanao, taking for granted their role in agricultural development.

"When men go to the hills or die, it's the women who are keeping things together," she said.

She cited as an example the role of women in farming, where she said they endure about 60 percent of the workload, practically doing everything except heavy labor like tilling the land or applying fertilizers.

"Most of it, the planting, weeding, threshing, and post-harvest activities are done by women," she said.

She said it is but logical for women to be at the forefront of the development of Mindanao because they are always on the ground and "they know the realities on the ground."

Santiago said of the 10 provinces and cities belonging to the bottom of the human development index, six are in Mindanao, and of the six, four are in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao. ***Joel Escovilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Army colonel hits silence on NPA abuses

By Chito A. Fuentes
PDI Visayas Bureau

TAGBILARAN CITY—A ranking military officer has urged human rights advocates to also investigate human rights violations committed by communist rebels in Bohol and not to concentrate only on abuses allegedly committed by soldiers.

Col. Cardozo Luna, commanding officer of the Army's 302nd Brigade, said that while he supports moves to investigate the soldiers' alleged human rights abuses, he could not understand why cause-oriented groups refused to document abuses committed by the New People's Army (NPA).

"Let us start educating our people (on the fact) that rebels can be guilty of human rights violations too," Luna said in a phone interview.

In previous statements, militant groups explained that they do not investigate rebel abuses because NPA guerrillas are classified as fugitives and are liable for the cases filed against them once they are captured.

Luna, however, said he could not understand why rebel abuses were not being denounced by these human rights groups.

He said the NPA rebels had allegedly killed several police officers in Bohol yet nothing was heard of from human rights advocates.

Among these police officers killed were Insp. Ruel Lagala, PO3 Sylvio Napiñas, SPO2 Frederico Decapio, Insp. Victor Hibaya, PO1 Eleuterio Arnado and SPO3 Carlito Bayot.

"They were killed by armed liquidation squads, not in legitimate encounters, so (their killings were) premeditated. Were they given the opportunity to defend themselves on the accusations against them? This is still violation of human rights. Even if they were policemen, their (families) were also crying out for justice," he said.

Luna also cited the executions of barangay officials whose "only mistake was that they happened to implement the programs of the government."

The Army officer identified these village officials as Barangay guard Pedro Calape and Barangay Councilman Quirino Cubrado of Pilar town; Barangay Councilman Joseph Betacia of Danao town; and Barangay Captain Rodrigo Jandayan of Tanod, Anda.

"They were killed even if they were not armed. And yet, we have not heard anything from human rights advocates condemning the killing," Luna added.

He said the deaths of civilians Michael Nuñez, Cerilo Solis and Marcelino Garcia in Danao in 1999, went by without any complaints of human rights violations.

Luna said the killings continued this year including those of a security guard and Timoteo Sarabosing, both in Mabini town, and paramilitary man Apolonio Briones.

"We are talking here of human lives killed, not just farmlands trampled or agricultural crops destroyed. And yet, the silence on these deaths is deafening," he said.

The Army official said he does not expect militant groups to suddenly change their stance and protect all victims of human rights abuses, regardless of political persuasion.

"They just can't do that for reasons na, *alam mo na*," he said.

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INQUIRER Visayas
JUN BANDAYREL, Editor ■ EDRALYN L. BENEDICTO, Bureau Chief

Problems hound 'Batang Pinoy' games in Bacolod

BACOLOD EXCHANGE

Ninfa R. Leonardia

THE BATANG Pinoy games that started here Saturday and that was scheduled to end yesterday has apparently brought more headaches to organizers and hosts than they had imagined.

After brashly accepting the responsibility of hosting the national fest within short notice, they discovered that the children's affair that was thought to be quite simple could present problems similar projects involving much older athletes easily avoided.

Starting with Day One when complaints were aired over all kinds of boo boos—from an indiscreet emcee who quickly got the goat of local media, to suspicions that many of the participating athletes were no longer *bata* but obviously *"binata,"* to claims of cheating, incidents of theft, and even to a sudden flood that inundated the quarters of the Isabela delegation—the games seemed to be marked with problems, not the least of which was the rained out playing field that called for changes of venue several times.

Still another problem especially at the start was the alleged discrimination of Manila media that the locals immediately noticed. When they noisily aired their grievances over their stations and in their newspapers, Philippine Sports Commission official Weena Lim, who is in charge of the games, quickly presented them P30,000, allegedly for "coverage assistance."

Lim probably noted that local reports were generally critical of the way the event was being managed, and felt the "donation" would change their attitude.

However, the local officers of the Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster sa Pilipinas, to whom the check was delivered, voted to return it. And so the locals continued to report the events as they saw it, despite the fact that the governor's people were also reportedly shelling out P100 a day to some willing to accept it.

The surprise to Bacolod and Negros Occidental residents, however, was the fact that, with all the hitches they were seeing and reporting, the coverage from the national newspapers was much, muck kinder. One would even believe that the Panaad Stadium, which drew only sparse crowds that was quickly noticed by visitors, was overflowing.

Asia's sprint queen, Lydia de Vega-Mercado, who came to the opening and sailed out as soon as her task of leading the oath for officials was over, said it all when she ruefully commented that the BP couldn't come up to the old Gintong Alay standards. *"Gumagastos lang tayo,"* she added sadly.

As for the PSC officials promoting the games, they will probably be comforted by reports in the national papers, especially if the "coverage" they hope for happens.

* * *

If Bacolod City officials have been rather distracted in the attention being given to the games, they can be forgiven as they have lots of other things in their minds.

For the first time, the city is handling what can be a landmark case of sexual harassment. A close aide of the mayor has been charged by a casual worker with offering her help to keep her job in exchange for sexual favors. The case has dragged on for months, but that was not surprising since the accused executive assistant, Sancho Nagar, is believed to be one of those who had worked hard during the May elections for his boss. Intense media pressure, however, forced the issue into the open and the investigating committee has reported finding *prima facie* evidence.

On the other hand, hundreds of casual employees of the city are now baying at City Hall for payment of their salaries, some of them from as far back as June yet. The delay has so outraged some of them that about five recently came out and revealed to the media that their employment by the city had involved campaigning for the incumbent mayor and her party during the elections. They also presented copies of the approved plantilla bearing their names.

That is expected to bring more problems to Mayor Luzviminda Valdez who, in her reply to the charges of violation of the Comelec Election Code, had denied that these people were working for her. A case of perjury is being prepared against her.

* * *

Shortly after the suicide bombing of a bus in Israel where a Filipina was killed, a bombing incident also took place in Bacolod City at dawn this week.

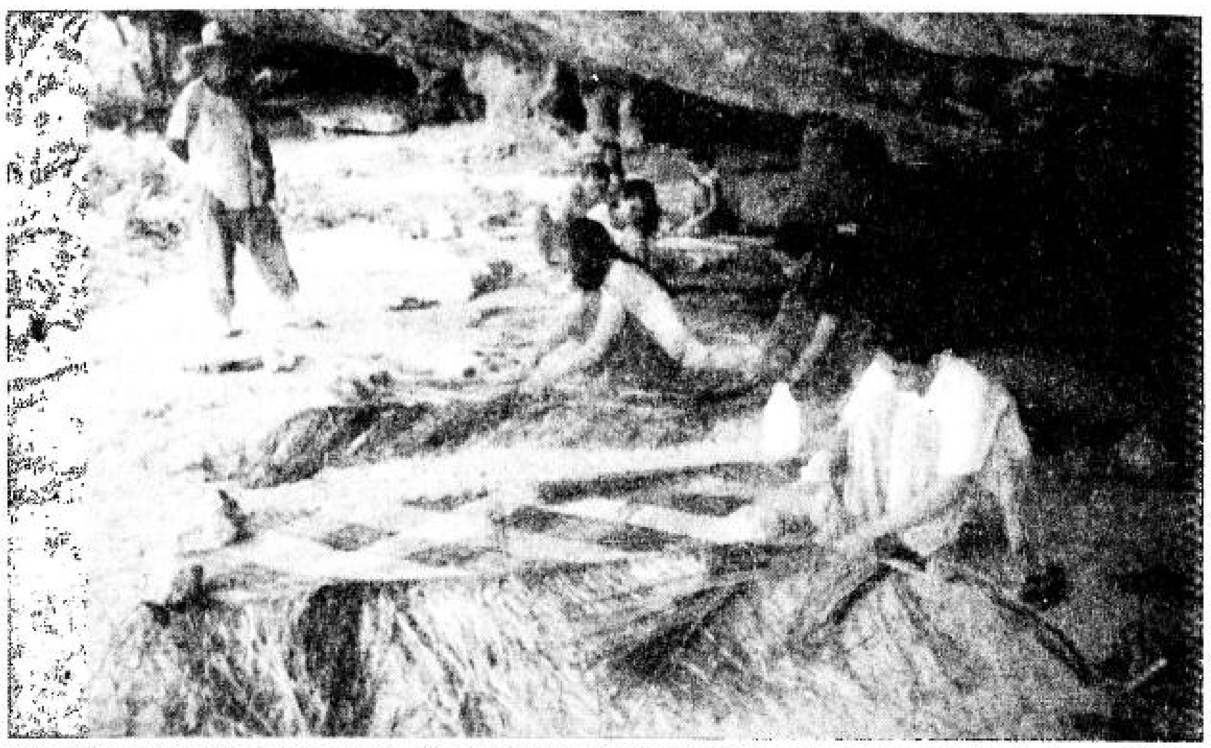
The explosion took place near the gate of lawyer William Mirano's house and caused damage to his house and nine others in the vicinity. The bombing took place a few days after a case was filed in court against the widow and some cousins of a resident who was reported to have committed suicide last year. Mirano is the lawyer of the family members who filed the case. Police, however, are prudently looking into other angles.

* * *

But the talk of the week is the highly successful presentation of the concert "An Evening of Music" by the San Miguel Philharmonic Orchestra and the San Miguel Chorale whose patrons are former Ambassador and Mrs. Eduardo Cojuangco. With the popular Ryan Cayabyab as host and Basil Valdez as special guest, the overflowing USLS gym reverberated with applause at the superbly programmed repertoire and appreciation for the project that will surely revive Pinoy love for symphony music everywhere in the country.

'Banig' making kept alive by Basey folk

By Vicente S. Labro
Basey, Samar



YOUNG women of Barangay Basiao, Basey, Samar weave mats under a stone canopy protruding from a hill that faces their village.

PHOTO BY VEN LABRO

THE TRADITIONAL art of mat weaving continues to flourish in this old town whose name has become synonymous with woven sleeping mats, or the *banig*.

And the practice of this ancient art, which has been handed down from one generation to the next, recently took a new turn as more of the product is now in demand. This after the use of the *banig* was expanded—from just being a thing to sleep on to a decorative piece that adorns walls or ceiling panels, bags, throw pillows, frames, place mats and furniture, among many others.

"Our biggest break was when the *banig* was used as upholstery material for furniture," said Lilio Adona, the 57-year-old owner of Basey Handicraft who was one of the awardees of this year's Ramon Magsaysay Outstanding Workers Award. He received a Most Outstanding Worker (self-employed category) award last August.

Lilio is into furniture and handicraft business, and his citation reads in part: "His product became famous when he introduced the use of the *banig*, a locally made handcrafted mat, as an additional alternative material for furniture."

But Lilio revealed that as early as 20 years ago they already expanded the use of the *banig*. He said they started using *banig* in making welcome arches, banners and floats in the early 1980s. Then they were commissioned by the Department of Tourism to provide embroidered *banig* as wall covering of the Philippine Pavilion in Lisbon in 1997 and in Canada in 1998.

In between those years, he added, *banig* has been made into bags, place mats, throw pillows, prayer mats, wall decors and many other products.

Solid, jointless reed

Mat weaving, it is said, has been practiced by the people of Basey even before the coming of the Spaniards. The tradition went on with almost all, if not all, of the womenfolk here learning the art of weaving at an early age. The weavers are locally known as *paraglara*.

LILIO and Eva Adona.

PHOTO BY VEN LABRO

The raw material used in mat weaving in Basey is *tikog* (*Fimbristylis utilis*), which belongs to the family *Cuperaceae* and has solid, jointless and usually triangular stems. The reed plant thrives well in densely forested areas and grows even in ricefields. Fully-grown *tikog* reaches up to three meters. Its width ranges from the finest at 1.5 mm up to 6 mm. The weavers of Basey use the finer *tikog*.

The *tikog* stems are first cut according to the desired length and then dried under the sun. Some of these stems are dyed with a desired color and again dried. Then these are flattened just before they are woven into mats.

Lilio said they have a total of 34 barangay coordinators who are ready to help them buy woven mats in the town's more than 50 villages whenever there is a big order for the *tikog* mat from exporters and other buyers.

Mat weaving is an old cottage industry of Basey, with many of its villages engaged in the craft. In Barangay Bacubac, some 3 kilometers northwest of the town proper, old women spend the day weaving *banig* inside their *nipa* huts, while their husbands prepare the *tikog* materials they will use.

In Barangay Basiao, the last village of Basey to the southeast, which is about 20 kilometers from the town proper, some of the womenfolk spend the day weaving mats under a canopy-like stone formation.

The place is actually part of a small cave located along the national highway, just across the coastal village. The women explained that they prefer to work in this area because the cool atmosphere makes the *tikog* less brittle, making it easier for them to weave a sleeping mat.

Elsewhere in Basey, many women are busy weaving mats that they would later sell in the town proper to augment the income of their farmer- or fisherman-husband. Others sell their mats to entrepreneurs who would bring the products for sale in Tacloban City, which is just some 30 kilometers away.

The usual designs of the *banig* of Basey are *yano* (plain), *sinamay* (checkered), and *bordado* or *pinahutan* (embroidered). The sizes range from *monyal* or family size (2 meters by 1.6 meters), *sola* (2 m x 1.2 m), and *tejeras* (2 m x 1 m).

With many people in Basey engaged in mat weaving, it came as no surprise that there is now a scarcity of the raw material.

Lilio revealed that they have to buy *tikog* from Leyte towns like Mayorga, Abuyog, MacArthur and Sta. Fe, among others, to augment the supply that they acquire locally.

Generations of mat weavers

Lilio and his wife, Eva, started their *banig* business sometime in the 1980s, about a decade after they got married. Before that, Eva was an office employee of the local school and later of a rural bank in Basey. Lilio, on the other hand, worked in a logging firm based in the town. But it was not until 1993 when they really went full time into *banig* making.

Running the business, it seems, was not a problem for the couple. Both Lilio and Eva have come from long lines of mat weavers. Their respective maternal parents, grandparents up to their great great grandparents all knew how to weave *banig*. And even when they were young they already knew, among others, where to get the materials to be used and how long would it take to weave a mat of a particular size.

Eva was able to make good use of her being a commerce graduate of the Far Eastern University. She handled the finance and marketing aspects of their business.

Lilio, an activist in his student days who became at one time the provincial chair in Samar of the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan, is also making good use of what he learned in school. He took up architecture in one of the colleges in Cebu City but failed to finish the course. The love of art, however, is in his veins and he is the one making the different designs not only of the embroidered mats but also of the furniture and other functional items that use *banig*.

"My great great grandfather, Mariano Zapanta, was among the artisans that built our church," Lilio proudly said, referring to the 17th century Basey church.

The couple is blessed with a son and two daughters. Paul, 30, is an incumbent member of the municipal council of Basey. The other children are Eva Marie Yu, 27, and Annie Grace Adona, 24.

Lilio and Eva are residing in their two-story house in the poblacion of Basey.

Form follows function

Upon entering the Adona home, one can already see the different furniture and *banig* items that adorn the receiving room. In a room in another part of the ground floor can be seen a group of women busy weaving *tikog* mats or sewing *banig* bags.

The couple's showroom is located on the second floor, where one can see several items of woven mats—sleeping mats, floor mats, place mats, prayer mats, throw pillows, embossed wall decors, slippers and bags of different sizes and colors.

There are also other *banig*-based products like lampshades, wine holders, penholders, *banig*-covered chests and collapsible trays.

Eva said some of these items end up in the United States, Italy, Japan and other foreign countries, where their Manila buyer export these products.

She said they have to diversify the use of *banig* "because we know there is a market for other uses (of the mat)."

Lilio, the artist, said his designs follow the norm that "form follows function."

What started as a small time business with a meager capital that they registered with the then National Cottage Industry Administration (Nacida), has now grown into a million-peso full grown endeavor that is being assisted by the Department of Trade and Industry and other related agencies.

The Department of Tourism is also very supportive of the *banig* industry of Basey. Tourists are encouraged to visit the Adona showroom and work room, for them to see that the traditional art of mat weaving is still very much alive—and expanding—in the old town of Basey.

Allowing the poor to reach out to the stars

By Ma. Diosa Labiste
Iloilo City

FROM bottle caps, candy wrappers, cigarette boxes, seeds, coconut husks, abaca and other found objects, high school and elementary students in Igbaras town, 40 kilometers south of here, fashioned some 120 Christmas lanterns they intend to give to the poor.

The first ever "Share a Star" contest was launched in the town to encourage students to use indigenous and recycled materials in making lanterns, the traditional symbols of Christmas. It also encouraged the townsfolk to recycle waste and enhance their handicraft skills. The students who produce the 10 best lanterns each received P500 in prizes.

"This is one contest that proves that 'waste' is a relative term," said Mayor James Esmeralda, who boasted of the "genius" of his young constituents from Igbaras National High School and Igbaras Central Elementary School.

The lanterns, now strung under the canopy of mahogany forest in high school campuses and inside the town's gymnasium, are not for sale but "for donation." That means somebody will give a donation to have a lantern installed in homes of those who are too poor to buy lanterns, or in public places like streets, plaza or market.

The donated money for a chosen *parol* will be given to the student who made the lantern to enable the student to recover the cost of making the *parol*.

Reviving a waning tradition

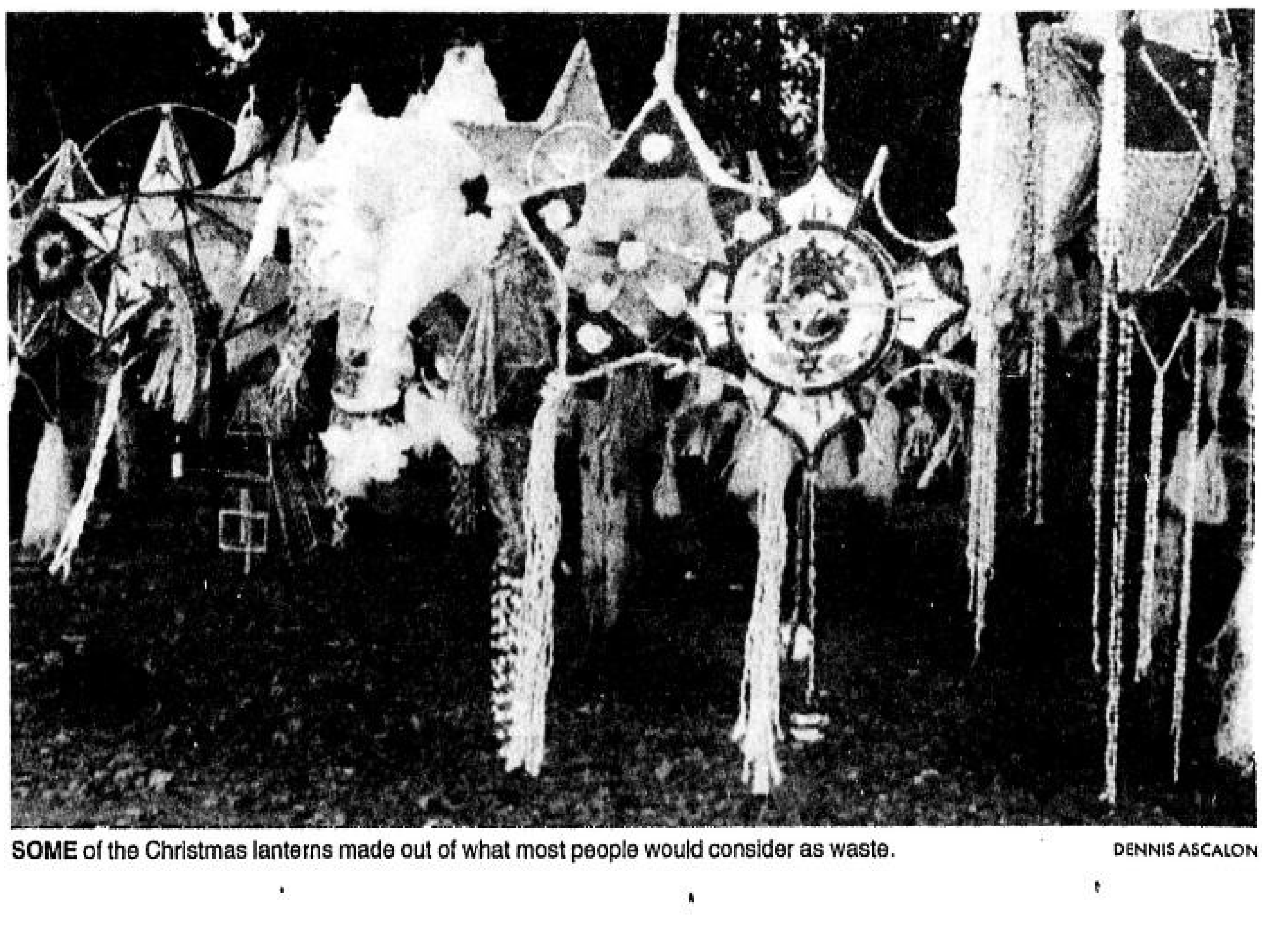
Esmeralda said *parol* making has been a waning tradition in the mountain town that plastic Christmas trees and blinking lights rather than the traditional nativity scene and lanterns now decorate many homes.

Organizers of the competition are Basilia Ramos, principal of both the Igbaras National High School and the Igtalongon National High School; Enrico Quidato, head of the high school industrial arts department, and the Igbaras Central Elementary School led by Enrique Gastala the principal and Jose Estorga the assistant principal.

The 10 best *parol* were made by a mix of elementary and high school students—Christopher Ebreo, Audi Infante, John Rey Espin, Alvin Klitz Baldonado, Darlyn Honorario, Mariho Ea, Rita May Marmolejo, Joy Vincent Emilio, James Bryan Doromo and Benhur Hervas.

The organizers also awarded two other students—Aguido Elevera and Jose Ma. Gecana—whose entries might not have complied with the criteria but which "stood out due to artistic excellence."

Esmeralda said it was hard to choose which of the 10 lanterns is the best so the judges declared all of them winners.



SOME of the Christmas lanterns made out of what most people would consider as waste.

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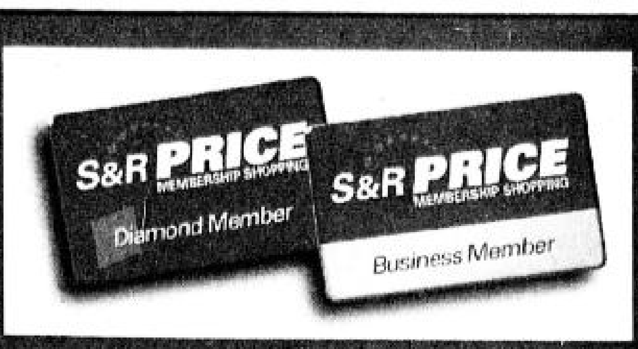

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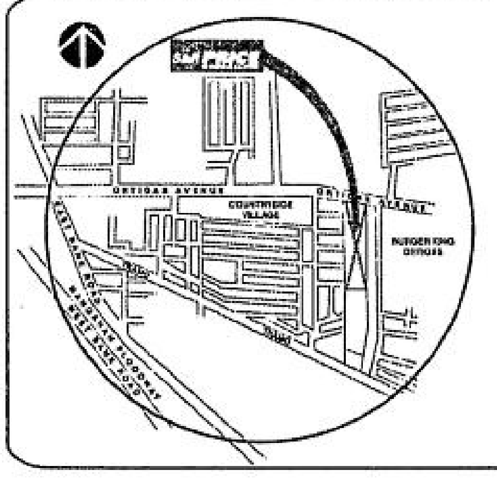

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INTO the deep jungles of Basilan, Army tanks search for remnants of the Abu Sayyaf bandits.

CHARLIE SACEDA/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

11 Abus slain in clash; GIs land in Basilan

(From page A1)

"It's very, very clear, anyway, and (US) President (George W.) Bush said so in his own interviews," she said. "It's very clear that I have told him that I draw the line on soldiers on the ground, and he respects the line I have drawn."

Lt. Gen. Roy Cimatu, chief of the Armed Forces' Southern Command, said the troops recovered from the slain bandits several firearms including a 90mm anti-tank recoilless rifle, as well as an infrared thermal imaging device.

The night-vision device had been issued to the military, but the bandits made off with it in one of their daring attacks in the province.

"This is a very good development after several days of planning and surveillance," Cimatu said.

He said the two soldiers wounded in the clash, Cpl. Renato Calumpit and Pvt. Apolinario Almariego, had been airlifted to the Camp Navarro Hospital at the Southcom headquarters in Zamboanga. Col. Hermogenes Esperon, commander of the Army's 103rd Brigade, said the military was using the captured bandit as guide in pursuit operations against the Abu Sayyaf unit led by Hamsiraji Sali.

Sali is believed to be holding the last Filipino hostage, nurse Ediborah Yap of Lamitan, Basilan.

Esperon said there was "a big possibility" that some loyalists of Nur Misuari, former governor of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, might have joined Sali's group.

Light Reaction Company

In a phone interview, Cimatu told the INQUIRER in Manila that he believed it was the American-trained Light Reaction Company that clashed with the main body of the Abu Sayyaf.

"The group in Makiri is headed by Abu Sabaya and Hamsiradji Sali, commander of the Abu Sayyaf's security force," Cimatu said.

A military official who requested anonymity said the main body of the bandit group had two recoilless rifles.

Reuters quoted Esperon as saying that the fighting started in the Kumalarang suburb of Isabela and was continuing through the morning.

Senior Supt. Bensali Jabarani, Basilan police chief, said soldiers and police were securing downtown Isabela and evacuating some residents of Kumalarang amid "very fierce fighting."

Esperon said the clash erupted when soldiers ran into an Abu Sayyaf unit while seeking signs of the Burnhams, who were abducted from a Palawan resort on May 27 along with one other American—Guillermo Sobero, who has since been killed—and 17 Filipinos. Yap was taken several days later in an Abu Sayyaf raid on a hospital in Lamitan.

Agence France Presse quoted Esperon as saying that after the clash, "the enemy broke into smaller groups and fled toward the jungle, but soldiers are trailing them and sooner or later we will get them all."

Cimatu said he believed that the Burnhams and Yap were unharmed. "Hopefully, we can recover them soon," he said.

More than 7,000 soldiers are in Basilan searching for the Abu Sayyaf and its captives.

Training only

In Malacañang, the President said the latest batch of US soldiers would only train and advise Philippine troops and would not join actual military operations.

She said a training camp had been set up in Zamboanga for the purpose.

"So all of these are part of the training-and-advice arrangement we have (with the US government)," the President said.

She said the training would be a follow-up to that given earlier by the Americans to the Light Reaction Company in Fort Magsaysay, Nueva Ecija.

In Zamboanga, Cimatu also said the American soldiers would only conduct additional training for members of the Light Reaction Company.

But he sounded vague: "I think they are also planning to train another LRC, in addition to what we have now."

A statement issued by Col. Danilo Servando, which was different from that of Cimatu, compounded the stir created by the arrival of the Americans.

"They are only visiting this city," Servando said.

Last October, 26 US counter-terrorism "experts" flew to Zamboanga and Basilan to evaluate the Philippine military's operations.

2 MC-130s

Philippine Air Force officials said two US Air Force MC-130, special operations aircraft, landed at the former Clark Air Base in Pampanga around 9:15 p.m. Thursday.

The aircraft came from Kadena, Japan, according to PAF spokesperson Col. Lino Lapinid.

The Associated Press quoted a spokesperson for the US Embassy in Manila as saying she was unaware of the trip but that US forces were frequently in the Philippines.

The Department of Foreign Affairs said the PAF had sought clearance for the aircraft to leave for Zamboanga.

Elmer Cato, spokesperson of the Presidential Commission on the Visiting Forces Agreement, confirmed that the PAF tried to verify whether the aircraft could transport US troops from Manila to Zamboanga yesterday morning.

"So, from Clark, the MC-130 flew to Villamor Air Base in Manila to pick up the American soldiers and brought them to Zamboanga," Cato told the INQUIRER in an interview. "Then the MC-130 flew back to Clark without the soldiers."

Cato said the American soldiers comprised the same group that visited the country in October.

"It's a follow-up mission," he said, adding:

"They were allowed in because this would enhance the cooperation with the Americans especially on the premise of the anti-terrorism campaign. They give support to 'exercise vector balance piston,' a military training exercise. But they are not involved in combat operations.

"They are here to assess and find out if their counterparts have the right equipment, and (if not), what kind of equipment they would need to better improve their fighting capabilities."

Cato also pointed out that while Bush had offered to send military troops to help the Philippines in the fight against the Abu Sayyaf, Ms Macapagal declined. ***With reports from Dona Z. Pazzibugan, Christine Herrera, Martin P. Marfil and INQUIRER wires***

Wedding bells to ring at Palace

(From page A1)

Mikey and Angela met in a reunion of the Arroyo clan last March. Call it corny, but Mikey said it was love at first sight.

"We started going out. We decided to know each other for a year, and then decide if we want to get married. So far, she has made me so happy," he said.

The one-year compatibility test is going to end in March next year and after that, Mikey said the wedding would be "hopefully next year."

Just exactly when or if it is in July as reported, Mikey wished to keep the date a secret for now. Mikey's lips are also sealed about the site of the wedding. It could either be at the grand, old church of Lubao, the hometown of the Macapagals, or at the Santuario de San Antonio in Forbes Park in Makati City, the church of choice of Manila's privileged class.

What is only certain at this point is the state of their relationship. "Everything is OK between us," he said. "We're taking it slowly like mature adults."

How has Angela changed him?

"I've never been happier," said Mikey. Angela, according to him, supports him in everything he does, whether in politics or in show biz.

Mikey finished public administration at the University of California in Berkeley. He takes on movie assignments in between his work at the provincial capitol.

"My *nanay* (the President) and dad like her," he beamed. Angela's framed picture is on his desk at the capitol, beside the framed photograph of his grandfather, the late President Diosdado Macapagal.

Endearing traits

Mikey singled out the traits that endeared Angela to the Arroyos: "Decent" and "very presentable."

The first time that the couple appeared together in public was last June 30 when Mikey assumed office as vice governor.

On that day, Angela did not shun Mikey's followers. She mixed well with the crowd, the way Mikey does. And the two were extremely sweet to each other without being showy, observers noted.

Angela works at the Schiller International Business, a family-owned company. Mikey plans for her to have her own career even after they are married.

Tiglao foiled hostage talks, claims Lacson

(From page A1)

to help.

"Why is he sowing intrigue when my effort can help the country in terms of restoring stability and investor confidence in Mindanao?" the senator said, adding:

"The problem with (Malacañang officials) is that their orientation is always ransom. Whenever somebody moves to help in the release of hostages, at the back of their mind it's always about ransom. They know that they cannot release those hostages without ransom."

But Tiglao defended his disclosure, saying "it's the President's policy that there can be no secret negotiations."

"The good senator wanted it to be a secret negotiation and this would have endangered the lives of our soldiers, of the Burnham couple (Martin and Gracia)," he said at the President's weekly press conference yesterday. "So it's upon us, after a question was posed to us, to acknowledge that we have information that Sen. Lacson did meet with Sairin Karno."

The President herself did not comment on Lacson's meeting.

But she said the payment of ransom had only emboldened the Abu Sayyaf to continue its kidnappings.

"You know why we have Dos Palmas?" she said, referring to the Palawan resort from which a group including the Burnhams was absucted on May 27. "That was Sipadan 2. If you pay ransom again now, we will have Sipadan 3, 4, like (the movie) 'Star Wars.' I have nothing against 'Star Wars' 6, 7, but not Sipadan 3, 4, 5, 6."

Discreet

Lacson admitted to reporters that he was in Kota Kinabalu in Sabah on Dec. 5 and 6 on the request of a Malaysian contact who had been in touch with the Abu Sayyaf on the fate of the Burnhams and Filipino hostage Ediborah Yap.

He said the contact was the same person involved in the negotiations that led to the release of the Sipadan hostages.

He denied that he traveled to Sabah with Li Peng We. He said his companion was a Senate staff member.

"I made the trip very discreetly," Lacson said. "In fact, in the travel authority I submitted to the Senate president, I marked the trip as 'secret.'"

According to Lacson, the Malaysian contact was already talking about the mechanics of the hostages' release, which was to take place "in a matter of days."

He expressed the hope that the negotiation for the release, which he said was in the final phase, would not be jeopardized by Tiglao's disclosure of his trip.

He insisted that there was no money involved in the matter.

"They were talking of days . . . to implement the release," he said. "Do you think the Malaysians will pay for American and Filipino hostages? No. Do you think I will pay for the hostages?"

Asked why he was chosen to help, Lacson said he did not know. He said he just received a phone call to this effect from the contact who wanted him to fly to Sabah to help.

He added that the contact was afraid to come to the Philippines. "My point is, even if I am with the opposition, I am still trying to help because that is what the President asked for—for us to help," Lacson said.

He lamented that the hopeful development had been preempted and derailed by the premature disclosure.

"What kind of attitude is that? *Di ba kasamaan ng ugali yan?*" he said.

Tiglao said Sairin Karno phoned him several months ago and offered to negotiate for the release of the Dos Palmas hostages.

But Malacañang rejected the offer, suspecting a collusion between the Malaysian and the Abu Sayyaf to arrange ransom.

Janjalani

Abu Sayyaf leader Khadaffy Janjalani told INQUIRER contributor Arlyn dela Cruz in a phone interview that Karno called Lacson last week and sought a meeting.

Janjalani said he himself had suggested Lacson to Karno.

Asked why, Janjalani said: "He will believe me. I need someone who will believe me that this crisis will end with the help of Karno."

Janjalani said he met Lacson sometime in 1998 when he was still aboveground.

He described Karno as the "key man" but did not say what would be the "deal" if the government ever allowed the Malaysian to negotiate for the Burnhams' release.

But he stressed that with Karno, no ransom was demanded.

A senior aide of Lacson's described the meeting with Karno as "purely exploratory" and said the senator had no intention of breaking the government's no-ransom policy.

Janjalani also said the Burnhams would have been freed last October.

He said they also wanted to end the hostage crisis even before the Muslim holy month of Ramadan except that an influential figure was getting in the way of the hostages' release.

Janjalani said a certain Doctora Rose contacted them in late September to say that the ransom money amounting to $2 million was already in Manila and that a former government official was controlling the release.

Doctora Rose is allegedly from Davao and a trusted aide of the former government official.

Janjalani said they had been informed by their sources that the ex-official withdrew the money from a bank in Hong Kong.

The ex-official allegedly raised the money from "mostly" Protestant businessmen.

But Janjalani said that since July, they had been insisting on Karno as negotiator.

He said that had the government allowed this, "the hostage crisis would have ended months ago."

Romero

A group of retired military officers yesterday reiterated the call for Sen. Sergio Osmena III to prove his allegation that active military officers got a share of the ransom paid for the freedom of former hostage Reghis Romero II.

Retired Maj. Gen. Victor Garcia, president of the Business, Industry and Retired Cavaliers Inc., said in a press briefing that Osmena's allegation had started to demoralize soldiers and officers, especially graduates of the Philippine Military Academy.

"This has a very serious implication because it (erodes the) good relationship between military commanders and their subordinates. It destroys relationships, and it will demoralize the troops," Garcia said, adding:

"The good senator should prove his serious allegation because it has a very serious effect. It is also sending a message: It seems that the PMA has ceased to produce leaders of character."

In Basilan, Brig. Gen. Glicerio Sua, commander of Task Force Comet, said Osmeña's claim about the military was not true.

Sua said he could not imagine that military commanders would think of making money while their men were dying in battle.

But in Fort Magsaysay, Nueva Ecija, Maj. Gen. Ernesto Carolina said Army soldiers were "not affected even a bit" by Osmeña's allegation.

"We are not even talking about it because we don't believe it in the first place," Carolina said Thursday.

He said his troops had been used to what he called "loose pronouncements," referring to reports of military officials getting a share of the ransom money paid by the families of Abu Sayyaf kidnap victims.

"That's how we view it because there's no basis in it. We have faith in our people in Mindanao," he said.

In Manila, Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo urged the President to relieve Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes and Armed Forces Chief of Staff Diomedio Villanueva to pave the way for an impartial investigation of Osmeña's allegation.

"If the President is serious in addressing the peace and order problem in our country, then she should start by cleaning the military from the top," Ocampo said in a statement. ***With reports from Arlyn dela Cruz; Martin P. Marfil and Juliet L. Javellana in Manila; Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau; Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk***

Gloria hurting, alarmed

(From page A1)

not and you may not be judged."

The President later answered queries about her reaction to the low public trust rating of her husband, which pollsters said affected her own rating.

"Really, I am very sad about how my husband is being used as a whipping boy in order to bring me down," she said. "And I could only wish that those who give prominent coverage to those who are speaking out against his character would look at two things"—the credibility of the person saying it and the evidence, the President said.

So deep must be her pain that she sighed "*Salamat sa Panginoon* (Thank God)" when a reporter of *Balita,* Evelyn Quiros, said that she believed that the President was innocent of the accusations hurled against her.

When a reporter of dzMM, Anthony Taberna, remarked that Ms Macapagal remained pretty despite the problems confronting her, the President said "Ohh thank you" and smiled.

But the President said she was "alarmed by the rumors and mudslinging."

Ms Macapagal said it was her practice to confront her appointees upon receiving information that they might be engaged in graft.

Can't be done overnight

The President said she normally referred complaints to the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission, particularly if documents had been furnished her.

She, however, said that the eradication of corruption could not be done overnight.

"Fighting corruption is not like St. Michael coming down and slaying the dragon with one twist of his sword. Fighting corruption is more like treating an infected wound: you have to keep cleansing and disinfecting," the President said.

Ms Macapagal said that as President, she had no choice except to "remain very focused on my work" despite the controversies rocking her government.

"I have my vision, which I stated on the day that I became President. I have my road map, which I spelled out, during my state of the nation address," she said.

Ms Macapagal said she could not allow herself to be distracted because "times are very difficult."

"And if the President is not focused, it's very difficult to survive," she said.

In her opening statement, the President noted that blind items were a regular fare in newspaper columns and radio programs.

She said it was very easy to destroy a person's reputation through poison letters, mobile phone text messages and white papers.

The President said that some journalists often use such words as "reportedly," "allegedly" and "purportedly" to hide a weak story.

She likewise pointed to unnamed sources as the basis of stories attacking other persons.

"*Nawawalan ng halaga ang katotohanan, nawawalan ng respeto sa reputasyon ng isang tao o isang institusyon,*" Ms Macapagal said.

Sulit na, masaya pa!

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DIPOLOG	FRI	11:59 pm	OLOS	P 14	SUN	3:00 pm	DPLG
DUMAGUETE	MON	11:59 pm	OLOM	P14	WED	11:00 am	DGTE
	WED	11:59 pm	SF 2/5/9	P4	FRI	4:00 am	DGTE
DUMAGUIT	MON	6:00 pm	OLOL	P4	TUE	9:30 am	DUM
	WED	2:00 pm	OLOL	P4	THU	5:30 am	DUM
	SAT	2:00 pm	OLOL	P4	SUN	5:30 am	DUM
GEN. SANTOS	MON	2:00 pm	SF 1/8	P14	WED	8:00 am	MAKAR
	SAT	10:00 am	SF 1/8	P14	MON	7:00 am	MAKAR
ILIGAN	THU	8:00 pm	SF 2/5/9	P14	SAT	9:00 am	ILIGAN
	SUN	9:00 pm	SF 2/5/9	P4	TUE	10:00 am	ILIGAN
ILOILO	THU	8:00 pm	SF 2/5/9	P14	FRI	5:00 pm	SNPED
	MON	10:00 am	SF 14	P4	TUE	5:00 am	SNPED
	SAT	10:00 am	SF 1/8	P14	SUN	5:00 am	LOBOC
MASBATE	TUE	11:00 pm	OLOS	P 14	WED	6:00 pm	MSBTE
NASIPIT/ BUTUAN	MON	6:00 pm	SF 2/5/9	P4	WED	11:00 am	NASIPIT
	THU	11:59 pm	SF 1/8	P14	SAT	9:00 am	NASIPIT
OZAMIZ	THU	8:00 pm	SF 2/5/9	P14	SAT	1:00 pm	OZAMIZ
	SUN	9:00 pm	SF 2/5/9	P4	TUE	2:00 pm	OZAMIZ
PALOMPON	TUE	11:00 pm	OLOS	P 14	THU	3:00 am	PALOMPON
P. PRINCESA	FRI	4:00 pm	OLOM	P4	SAT	8:00 pm	PPS
ROXAS	MON	6:00 pm	OLOL	P4	TUE	12:30 pm	CULASI
	WED	2:00 pm	OLOL	P4	THU	8:30 am	CULASI
	SAT	2:00 pm	OLOL	P4	SUN	8:30 am	CULASI
SURIGAO	MON	9:00 pm	SF 2/5/9	P4	WED	4:30 am	SURIGAO
	THU	11:59pm	SF 1/8	P14	SAT	3:00 am	SURIGAO
TAGBILARAN	MON	11:59 pm	OLOM	P14	WED	5:30 am	TAGBI
	FRI	11:59 pm	OLOS	P14	SUN	7:00 am	TAGBI
ZAMBOANGA	MON	2:00 pm	SF 1/8	P14	TUE	6:00 pm	ZAMBO
	SAT	10:00 am	SF 2/5/9	P4	SUN	6:00 pm	ZAMBO

From BACOLOD

TO	DEPARTURE				ARRIVAL		
	DAY	TIME	VESSEL	PIER	DAY	TIME	PIER
CAGAYAN	FRI	9:00 pm	SF 14	BREDCO	SAT	10:00 am	PUNTOD
ILIGAN	MON	8:00 pm	SF 2/5/9	BREDCO	TUE	10:00 am	ILIGAN
OZAMIZ	MON	8:00 pm	SF 2/5/9	BREDCO	TUE	2:00 pm	OZA
MANILA	WED	3:30 pm	SF 14	BREDCO	THU	11:00 am	P4
	SUN	2:00 pm	SF 2/5/9	BREDCO	MON	11:00 am	P4

From CAGAYAN de ORO

TO	DEPARTURE				ARRIVAL		
	DAY	TIME	VESSEL	PIER	DAY	TIME	PIER
BACOLOD	TUE	11:59 pm	SF 14	PUNTOD	WED	1:00 pm	BREDCO
DUMAGUETE	FRI	11:59 pm	SF 2/5/9	PUNTOD	SAT	6:00 am	DGTE
ILOILO	SAT	7:00 pm	SF 14	PUNTOD	SUN	8:00 am	LOBOC
MANILA	TUE	11:59 pm	SF 14	PUNTOD	THU	11:00 am	P4
	FRI	11:59 pm	SF 2/5/9	PUNTOD	SUN	11:00 am	P4
	SAT	7:00 pm	SF 14	PUNTOD	MON	6:00 am	P4

From CEBU

TO	DEPARTURE				ARRIVAL		
	DAY	TIME	VESSEL	PIER	DAY	TIME	PIER
NASIPIT	TUE	9:00 pm	SF 2/5/9	CIP	WED	11:00 am	NAS
SURIGAO	TUE	9:00 pm	SF 2/5/9	CIP	WED	4:30 am	SUR
MANILA	MON	11:59 am	SF 12	CIP	TUE	9:00 am	P4
	WED	6:00 pm	SF 12	CIP	THU	2:00 pm	P4
	THU	6:00 pm	SF 2/5/9	CIP	FRI	6:00 pm	P4
	FRI	8:00 pm	SF 12	CIP	SAT	5:00 pm	P4
	SUN	9:00 am	SF 1/8	CIP	MON	7:00 am	P14

From CORON

TO	DEPARTURE				ARRIVAL		
	DAY	TIME	VESSEL	PIER	DAY	TIME	PIER
P. PRINCESA	SAT	7:00 am	OLOM	CORON	SAT	8:00 pm	PPS
MANILA	SUN	11:00 pm	OLOM	CORON	MON	1:00 pm	P14

From COTABATO

TO	DEPARTURE				ARRIVAL		
	DAY	TIME	VESSEL	PIER	DAY	TIME	PIER
ILOILO	MON	11:59 am	SF 2/5/9	POLLOC	TUE	2:00 pm	SNPED
ZAMBOANGA	MON	11:59 am	SF 2/5/9	POLLOC	MON	8:30 pm	ZAMBO
MANILA	MON	11:59 am	SF 2/5/9	POLLOC	WED	1:00 pm	P4

From DAVAO

TO	DEPARTURE				ARRIVAL		
	DAY	TIME	VESSEL	PIER	DAY	TIME	PIER
GEN. SANTOS	MON	11:00 pm	SF 1/8	SASA	TUE	7:00 am	MAKAR
	WED	11:00 pm	SF 1/8	SASA	THU	7:00 am	MAKAR
ILOILO	MON	11:00 pm	SF 1/8	SASA	WED	10:00 am	LOBOC
ZAMBOANGA	WED	11:00 pm	SF 1/8	SASA	THU	10:00 pm	ZAMBO
MANILA	MON	11:00 pm	SF 1/8	SASA	THU	7:00 am	P14
	WED	11:00 pm	SF 1/8	SASA	SAT	4:00 am	P14

From DIPOLOG

TO	DEPARTURE				ARRIVAL		
	DAY	TIME	VESSEL	PIER	DAY	TIME	PIER
TAGBILARAN	SUN	11:59 pm	OLOS	DIPOLOG	MON	6:00 am	TAGBI
MANILA	SUN	11:59 pm	OLOS	DIPOLOG	TUE	5:00 pm	P14

From DUMAGUETE

TO	DEPARTURE				ARRIVAL		
	DAY	TIME	VESSEL	PIER	DAY	TIME	PIER
CAGAYAN	FRI	6:00 am	SF 2/5/9	DGTE	FRI	11:59 am	PUNTOD
TAGBILARAN	WED	4:00 pm	OLOM	DGTE	WED	7:00 pm	TAGBI
MANILA	WED	4:00 pm	OLOM	DGTE	FRI	4:00 am	P4
	SAT	9:00 am	SF 2/5/9	DGTE	SUN	11:00 am	P4

From DUMAGUIT

TO	DEPARTURE				ARRIVAL		
	DAY	TIME	VESSEL	PIER	DAY	TIME	PIER
ROXAS	TUE	11:00 am	OLOL	DUM	TUE	12:30 pm	CULASI
	THU	7:00 am	OLOL	DUM	THU	8:30 am	CULASI
	SUN	7:00 am	OLOL	DUM	SUN	8:30 am	CULASI
MANILA	TUE	7:00 pm	OLOL	DUM	WED	9:00 am	P4
	THU	3:30 pm	OLOL	DUM	FRI	7:00 am	P4
	SUN	3:30 pm	OLOL	DUM	MON	7:00 am	P4

From GEN. SANTOS

TO	DEPARTURE				ARRIVAL		
	DAY	TIME	VESSEL	PIER	DAY	TIME	PIER
DAVAO	MON	9:00 am	SF 1/8	MAKAR	MON	5:00 pm	SASA
	WED	10:00 am	SF 1/8	MAKAR	WED	6:00 pm	SASA
ILOILO	TUE	10:00 am	SF 1/8	MAKAR	WED	10:00 am	LOBOC
ZAMBOANGA	THU	10:00 am	SF 1/8	MAKAR	THU	10:00 pm	ZAMBO
MANILA	TUE	10:00 am	SF 1/8	MAKAR	THU	7:00 am	P14
	THU	10:00 am	SF 1/8	MAKAR	SAT	4:00 am	P14

From ILIGAN

TO	DEPARTURE				ARRIVAL		
	DAY	TIME	VESSEL	PIER	DAY	TIME	PIER
BACOLOD	SAT	10:00 pm	SF 2/5/9	ILIGAN	SUN	11:59 am	BREDCO
OZAMIZ	TUE	11:59 am	SF 2/5/9	ILIGAN	TUE	2:00 pm	OZA
	SAT	11:00 am	SF 2/5/9	ILIGAN	SAT	1:00 pm	OZA
MANILA	TUE	11:00 pm	SF 2/5/9	ILIGAN	THU	5:00 am	P14
	SAT	10:00 pm	SF 2/5/9	ILIGAN	MON	11:00 am	P4

From ILOILO

TO	DEPARTURE				ARRIVAL		
	DAY	TIME	VESSEL	PIER	DAY	TIME	PIER
CAGAYAN	TUE	7:00 am	SF 14	SNPED	TUE	7:30 pm	PUNTOD
DAVAO	SUN	7:00 am	SF 1/8	LOBOC	MON	5:00 pm	SASA
GEN. SANTOS	SUN	7:00 am	SF 1/8	LOBOC	MON	7:00 am	MAKAR
ILIGAN	FRI	7:00 pm	SF 2/5/9	SNPED	SAT	9:00 am	ILI
OZAMIZ	FRI	7:00 pm	SF 2/5/9	SNPED	SAT	1:00 pm	OZA
MANILA	TUE	4:00 pm	SF 2/5/9	SNPED	WED	1:00 pm	P4
	WED	11:59 am	SF 1/8	LOBOC	THU	7:00 am	P14
	SUN	10:00 am	SF 14	LOBOC	MON	5:00 am	P4

From MASBATE

TO	DEPARTURE				ARRIVAL		
	DAY	TIME	VESSEL	PIER	DAY	TIME	PIER
PALOMPON	WED	8:00 pm	OLOS	MASBATE	THU	3:00 am	PALOMPON
MANILA	THU	4:00 pm	OLOS	MASBATE	FRI	11:00 am	P14

From NASIPIT / BUTUAN

TO	DEPARTURE				ARRIVAL		
	DAY	TIME	VESSEL	PIER	DAY	TIME	PIER
CEBU	WED	11:59 pm	SF 2/5/9	NAS	THU	4:00 pm	CIP
	SAT	4:00 pm	SF 1/8	NAS	SUN	6:00 am	CIP
SURIGAO	WED	11:59 pm	SF 2/5/9	NAS	THU	5:00 am	SUR
	SAT	4:00 pm	SF 1/8	NAS	SAT	8:00 pm	SUR
MANILA	WED	11:59 pm	SF 2/5/9	NAS	FRI	6:00 pm	P4
	SAT	4:00 pm	SF 1/8	NAS	MON	7:00 am	P14

From OZAMIZ

TO	DEPARTURE				ARRIVAL		
	DAY	TIME	VESSEL	PIER	DAY	TIME	PIER
BACOLOD	SAT	6:00 pm	SF 2/5/9	OZA	SUN	11:59 am	BREDCO
ILIGAN	TUE	7:00 pm	SF 2/5/9	OZA	TUE	9:00 pm	ILIGAN
	SAT	6:00 pm	SF 2/5/9	OZA	SAT	8:00 pm	ILIGAN
MANILA	TUE	7:00 pm	SF 2/5/9	OZA	THU	5:00 am	P14
	SAT	6:00 pm	SF 2/5/9	OZA	MON	11:00 am	P4

From PALOMPON

TO	DEPARTURE				ARRIVAL		
	DAY	TIME	VESSEL	PIER	DAY	TIME	PIER
MASBATE	THU	7:00 am	OLOS	PALOMPON	THU	2:00 pm	MASBATE
MANILA	THU	7:00 am	OLOS	PALOMPON	FRI	11:00 am	P14

From PUERTO PRINCESA

TO	DEPARTURE				ARRIVAL		
	DAY	TIME	VESSEL	PIER	DAY	TIME	PIER
CORON	SUN	9:00 am	OLOM	Pps	SUN	10:00 pm	CORON
MANILA	SUN	9:00 am	OLOM	Pps	MON	1:00 pm	P14

From ROXAS

TO	DEPARTURE				ARRIVAL		
	DAY	TIME	VESSEL	PIER	DAY	TIME	PIER
DUMAGUIT	TUE	4:00 pm	OLOL	CULASI	TUE	5:30 pm	DUMAGUIT
	THU	12:30 pm	OLOL	CULASI	THU	2:00 pm	DUMAGUIT
	SUN	12:30 pm	OLOL	CULASI	SUN	2:00 pm	DUMAGUIT
MANILA	TUE	4:00 pm	OLOL	CULASI	WED	9:00 am	P4
	THU	12:30 pm	OLOL	CULASI	FRI	7:00 am	P4
	SUN	12:30 pm	OLOL	CULASI	MON	7:00 am	P4

From SURIGAO

TO	DEPARTURE				ARRIVAL		
	DAY	TIME	VESSEL	PIER	DAY	TIME	PIER
CEBU	THU	9:00 am	SF 2/5/9	SUR	THU	4:00 pm	CIP
	SAT	11:00 pm	SF 1/8	SUR	SUN	6:00 am	CIP
NASIPIT	WED	6:30 am	SF 2/5/9	SUR	WED	11:00 am	NAS
	SAT	5:00 am	SF 1/8	SUR	SAT	9:00 am	NAS
MANILA	THU	9:00 am	SF 2/5/9	SUR	FRI	6:00 pm	P4
	SAT	11:00 pm	SF 1/8	SUR	MON	7:00 am	P14

From TAGBILARAN

TO	DEPARTURE				ARRIVAL		
	DAY	TIME	VESSEL	PIER	DAY	TIME	PIER
DIPOLOG	SUN	9:00 am	OLOS	TAGBI	SUN	3:00 pm	DIPOLOG
DUMAGUETE	WED	8:00 am	OLOM	TAGBI	WED	11:00 am	DGTE
MANILA	WED	11:00 pm	OLOM	TAGBI	FRI	4:00 am	P4
	MON	10:00 am	OLOS	TAGBI	TUE	5:00 pm	P14

From ZAMBOANGA

TO	DEPARTURE				ARRIVAL		
	DAY	TIME	VESSEL	PIER	DAY	TIME	PIER
COTABATO	SUN	9:00 pm	SF 2/5/9	ZAMBO	MON	5:30 am	POLLOC
DAVAO	TUE	8:00 pm	SF 1/8	ZAMBO	WED	6:00 pm	SASA
GEN. SANTOS	TUE	8:00 pm	SF 1/8	ZAMBO	WED	8:00 am	MAKAR
ILOILO	MON	11:00 pm	SF 2/5/9	ZAMBO	TUE	2:00 pm	SNPED
MANILA	MON	11:00 pm	SF 2/5/9	ZAMBO	WED	1:00 pm	P4
	THU	11:59 pm	SF 1/8	ZAMBO	SAT	4:00 am	P14

* Return Trip discount is not applicable on tickets purchased with other discounts. Only one discount applies whichever is higher.

schedule may change without prior notice

HOTLINES

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SPORTS ON TV

COMPILED BY LORENZO MANGUIAT

BASKETBALL: US NCAA - Georgetown Hoyas vs South Carolina Gamecocks at 7 a.m. (r), Memphis Tigers vs Mississippi Rebels at 5 p.m., Arkansas Razorbacks vs Illinois Fighting Illini tomorrow at 1 a.m. on ESPN

NBA Inside Stuff at 10:30 a.m. (r – 6 p.m.) on Star Sports

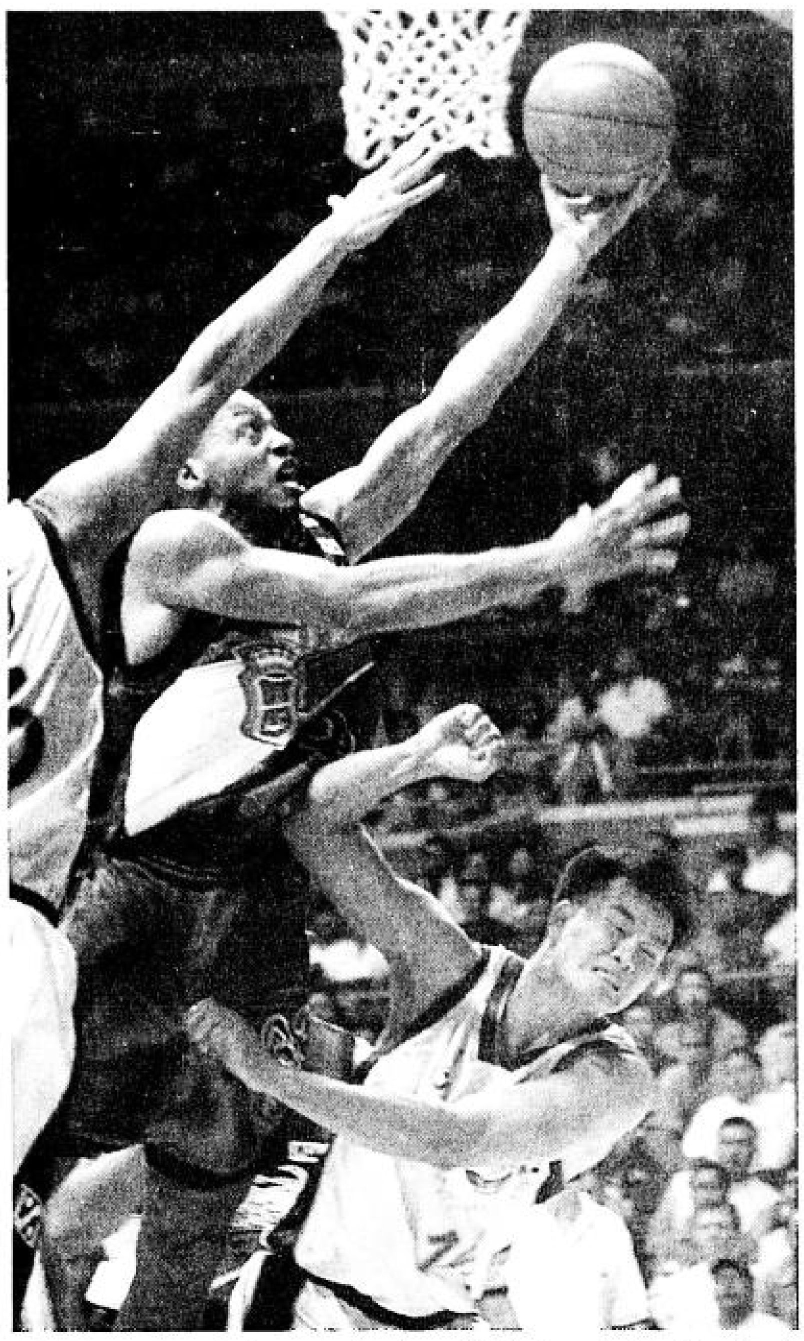
NBA—LA Lakers vs Sacramento Kings at 11 a.m. (r – 6:30 p.m.) on Star Sports, Minnesota Timberwolves vs Memphis Grizzlies at 2:30 p.m. (r) on ESPN

SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor ▪ EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

Anand subdues Shirov

MOSCOW—In a repeat of last year's final, Indian GMr Viswanathan Anand of India defeated Alexei Shirov of Spain to start the fifth round of the FIDE chess championship in Moscow on Thursday. As Black, Shirov chose the usually solid Petroff Defense and came up with a pawn sacrifice. Afterward, Anand said, "I felt the best thing was not to take any chances and to give the pawn back." *AP*



SAN Miguel Beer's Lamont Strothers (left) barrels into Sta. Lucia Realty's Dennis Espino as he goes for a layup in Game 1 of their PBA Governors Cup Finals Wednesday night. The Realtors triumphed, 86-80.

ERNIE SARMIENTO

Beermen tie series

Menk to Ginebra; San Miguel gets Hontiveros

GAME TOMORROW:
(Araneta Coliseum)
4p.m.—Awarding ceremonies
6p.m.—San Miguel vs Sta. Lucia
(Game 3)

BY JUNE NAVARRO

DANNY Seigle and Lamont Strothers tore down Sta. Lucia Realty's defensive web as San Miguel Beer pulled off an 86-78 victory to equalize their best-of-seven title series last night in the PBA Governors Cup at the Philsports Arena.

Exploiting his height advantage against Gerard Francisco, the 6-foot-5 Seigle connected mostly from the shaded area in the final quarter that told heavily on the Realtors.

Seigle, sidelined by a back injury for most of the conference, maximized the mismatch by draining 10 of his 19 points, attracting much of the Realtors' attention and stealing the thunder from Strothers.

And while the Realtors were too busy plugging in some defensive loopholes, Strothers finished them off, knocking in two key straight baskets as the Beermen went on to reduce the title fight to a best-of-five series.

"Lamont and Danny did a fine job offensively. But actually, it's hard to outscore them (Sta. Lucia) so the key here is to defend the best we can," said San Miguel coach Jong Uichico.

Marlou Aquino and Dennis Espino, heroes during Sta. Lucia's 86-80 win in Game 1, actually fell prey to the Beermen's aggressive defensive stance inside the paint as the task of rejuvenating the Realtors in the fading moments fell on playmaker Paolo Mendoza.

Routing Olsen Racela, Mendoza fired 13 of his 16 points in the second half to make up for the lethargic show of Aquino and Espino.

Meanwhile, Eric Menk, Tanduay's top gunner in the PBA, was shipped to Barangay Ginebra in exchange for swingman Elmer Lago, slotman Alex Crisano plus two future first round draft picks, a reliable source told the INQUIRER yesterday.

The source, who requested anonymity, said the deal was a top-level management decision for Barangay Ginebra with Tanduay team owner Bong Tan acting as one of the initiators in the trade talks.

"The deal was already agreed upon in principle with Mr. Tan as one of the signatories to the trade papers," the source confirmed.

Menk, sidelined for most of the 2001 season due to a recurring knee injury, will end his contract with the Rhummasters at year's end.

Also caught in the swirl of trade talks were Tanduay's Dondon Hontiveros and EJ Feihl of Purefoods.

Hontiveros, the Rhummasters' designated hitter from long distance, was sent to San Miguel Beer for defensive specialist Freddie Abuda, who, starting next season, will be donning the Tanduay jersey.

The 7-foot Feihl, on the other hand, was traded to Tanduay, which peddled Bonel Balingit and Cris Cantonjos in return.

Scores:

SMB 86—Strothers 29, Seigle 19, Racela 17, Ildefonso 9, Victoria 6, Lago 2, Peña 2, Belasco 2, Duat 0.

STA. LUCIA 78—Owens 22, Mendoza 16, Aquino 14, Espino 12, Francisco 8, Adriano 6, Belano 0, Ortiguerra 0, Del Rosario 0. Tan 0.

Quarters: 20-22; 44-34; 57-54, 86-78.

Manila rules Batang Pinoy meet

BY MARC ANTHONY REYES

BACOLOD CITY — Finding a gold mine in swimming and salvaging some more in six events, Manila dislodged two-time champion Laguna to crown itself the new king of the Philippine National Youth Games-Batang Pinoy at the Panaad Sports Complex here yesterday.

The athletes of the capital city fittingly claimed the Games overall title after amassing 22 golds, 14 silvers and 11 bronzes, despite a lean but mean delegation of 48 athletes in swimming, dancesports, chess, taekwondo, football and badminton.

Head of delegation Ali Atienza, son of Manila Mayor Lito Atienza, said they only sent entries in medal-rich events where they have a best chance of winning in the week-long event which closed its curtains yesteday.

"We expected to rule swimming but the overall title came as a surprise," said Atienza, who added that his delegation ran only on a budget of P600,000. "I think our strategy paid off because we really went for quality not quantity."

It was best typified by Manila's three swimming wonders—six-year-olds Gian Berino and Kimberly Uy and 12-year-old Heidi Gem Ong, who took three gold medals each. Manila only sent nine athletes for the swimming competitions and won a total of 17 golds.

The Big City also got golds in taekwondo (Gyle Michael Genoso and Paolo Miguel Angeles), two in dancesports and one in chess.

Atienza said the city government of Manila will give incentives to its medalists, worth P3,000 for gold, P2,000 for silver and P1,000 for bronze.

In contrast, Laguna, the champion in the first two stagings of Batang Pinoy, only had 15 gold medals to show in spite of a reported contingent of 200 and a whopping budget of P3 million.

DELEGATION head Ali Atienza whoops it up with some of Manila's gold medal winners.

ROMY HOMILLADA

Host Bacolod City, which had the biggest delegation of 250 athletes, came in third with 11 golds, mostly from the pool, while Cebu Province also snared 11 gold medals, five of them coming from karatedo.

Cagayan netted two golds in table tennis yesterday through Aurea Marl Perdido and Jairus Rubio. Also taking the golds were Stephanie Taba of Cebu City, Ellona Tormis of Cebu Province, Mark Samortin of Isabela and George Parcia Jr. of Capiz.

In badminton, girls doubles partners Malou Martinez and Lynette Esico of Capiz took home the title, while Clint Angelo Armamento ruled the boys singles.

Cagayan de Oro, Negros Occidental and Gen. Santos City each captured two gold medals in boxing. Raymond Legaspi and Richard Payla dominated the light cotton weight and the light vacumm, respectively, for Cagayan de Oro, while Jonato Quiam snatched the mosquito title and Jill Pacaunces prevailed in the light mosquito for Gen. Santos. Abelito Talidong and (powderweight) and Joland Esparagoza (cotton) won for Negros Occidental

Other gold medalists in boxing were Jestoni Borres of Cebu City, Gerard Banez of Davao de Norte and Mark Anthony Legada of Iloilo Province.

Muntinlupa City harvested four gold medals in gymnastics late yesterday through Mary Grace Vina and Hennessy Buenafe who won two golds each to give their city a total of 10 gold medals.

'Bente' winners known

THE DUO of Robert Bonifacio and Jared David bannered the winners in the Burlington Bente Uno Basketball Challenge eliminations held recently at the Don Bosco Technical Institute in Tarlac City.

With a jampacked crowd roaring in delight, Bonifacio and David topped the grade school students division to earn tickets to the national finals slated later this month.

Eduardo Canlas and Vener Medrano (grade schools) and the duo of Julius de la Vega and Honorato Bugayong (high school) won the student-teachers events in this event sponsored by Burlington and organized by Pro-Aide Inc.

Rap Parungao and Ace Santos ruled the high school students category.

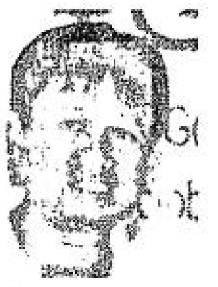
Over at the Don Bosco Academy in Pampanga, Jerome Gallardo and Mark Malonzo lead the winners in the grade school division. Christopher Leitch and Adrian Sicat, Bart Calinawan and Jon Paolo Razon also advanced in the national finals.

Fr. Danny Locquiao, father rector of Don Bosco Pampanga, also delighted the audience when he gamely participated in the one-day event.

The tandems of Estelito Mendoza/Gurpartap Singh and Kenneth Tobis/Juan Carlos Bernabe led the winners in the Aquinas School qualifier.

Orchard off to big start in SL Tour

SANTOS



GOB

DAN Salvador III fired 47 points in playing his usual role as the take-charge guy as Orchard D team seized a 12-point lead in Group I in the first round yesterday of the 2001 Sta. Lucia Golf Tour at the Aoki course of the Eagle Ridge Golf Club in Gen. Trias, Cavite.

The bespectacled Salvador, putting himself on the brink of another overall individual victory, got solid support from his brother Paul (44), Jojo Castaneda (33) and Rudel Panganiban (32) for a day aggregate of 124.

Orchard D team is unbeaten in the nationwide series and the Salvador-led squad seems not ready to slow down.

Royale Tagaytay C, behind the husband-and-wife tandem of Oscar and Leonila Patricio, took second place with a 112 ahead of Orchard F in the opening half of a 36-hole final leg of a series that had its first three stops at Alta Vista in Cebu, Orchard in Cavite and Rancho Palos Verdes in Davao.

Far different than Thursday's rainy weather when the field had their practice round, playing conditions were close to perfect yesterday and the field responded by providing the Sta. Lucia-organized series with one of the best daily scoring averages.

"The improved weather was a gift from heaven. We were really expecting the worst but it turned out perfect for everybody," said executive committee co-chair Vicente Santos and Winnie Gob.

Meanwhile, Santos and Gob will lead the raffling of the grand prizes worth almost P3 million in today's awarding ceremonies. The grand prizes are a residential property at Eagle Ridge and Isuzu Fuego and a pioneer audio-video showcase.

Royale Tagaytay B, made up of Kenji Matsumoto, Manuel Maglabe, Jose Mendoza and Jovy Matsumoto, opened up a four-point lead over Eagle Ridge O's Mario Naval, Edgardo Villamor, Ambrosio de Luna and Mariano Inductivo in Group II.

The Salvador brothers took the 1-2 positions in Class A while Gregory Kyle Norwood of Eagle surged ahead by five over Romeo Ignacio in Class D.

French netter, Swede dispute ITF final

FIFTH seed Benjamin Cassaigne of France humbled fourth pick Radoslav Lukaev of Bulgaria, 6-4, 6-2, yesterday to reach the final of the US$15,000 Tru-Flex ITF Philippines Men's Futures 2 tennis tournament at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.

"I'm so happy I won," said the 25-year-old Frenchman, who won two Futures in Canada last June.

"I think that Lukaev was tired, he played three sets in the quarterfinals," added Cassaigne.

The postponement of matches last Thursday due to the inclement weather forced tournament officials to hold the quarterfinal and semifinal matches on the same day.

Cassaigne beat doubles partner Toshihide Matsui, 6-4, 6-3, to advance against Lukaev. The Bulgarian, on the other hand, downed South African Dirk Stegman, 4-6, 6-3, 6-2.

The world's No. 408, Cassaigne, playing on his fifth tournament in Asia, shoots for the title against third seed and first leg champion Daniel Andersson of Sweden, who subdued Maximillan Abel of Germany, 6-4, 4-6, 6-3.

The finals is set at 9:30 a.m. today with the winner earning US$1,950 and 12 ATP points supported by the ITF Grand Slam Development Fund, Tru-Flex Tennis Court Surfacing, PSC, Viva Mineral Water, Manila Midtown Hotel and official ball Wilson.

In the doubles, top seeds Dirk Stegman and Coenie Van Wyk of South Africa defeated Filipino pair Pop Sabandon and Junjun Toledo, 6-2, 6-4 to reach the semifinals.

Sta. Elena grabs Tradition lead

STA. ELENA picked up two first-place points and played strongly in the other two in grabbing the solo lead after the second round of The Tradition tournament at the Canlubang south course recently.

The defending champions took a surprise win in Group I, tied Southwoods for first in Group II, placed third in Group III and placed a respectable fifth in seniors play for the day as the Cabuyao-based golfers improved to 57.5 points and inched 2.5 points ahead of Alabang.

Alabang rode on a second place effort in Group II worth nine points to post 27 points and remain within striking distance for its first-ever victory in the annual tourney seeking to revive the purist approach toward golf.

Forest Hills, who made the most points in the first round at Eastridge, tallied third place finishes in Group III and seniors but played poorly in the higher groups, sliding to solo third with a 22 for 51.

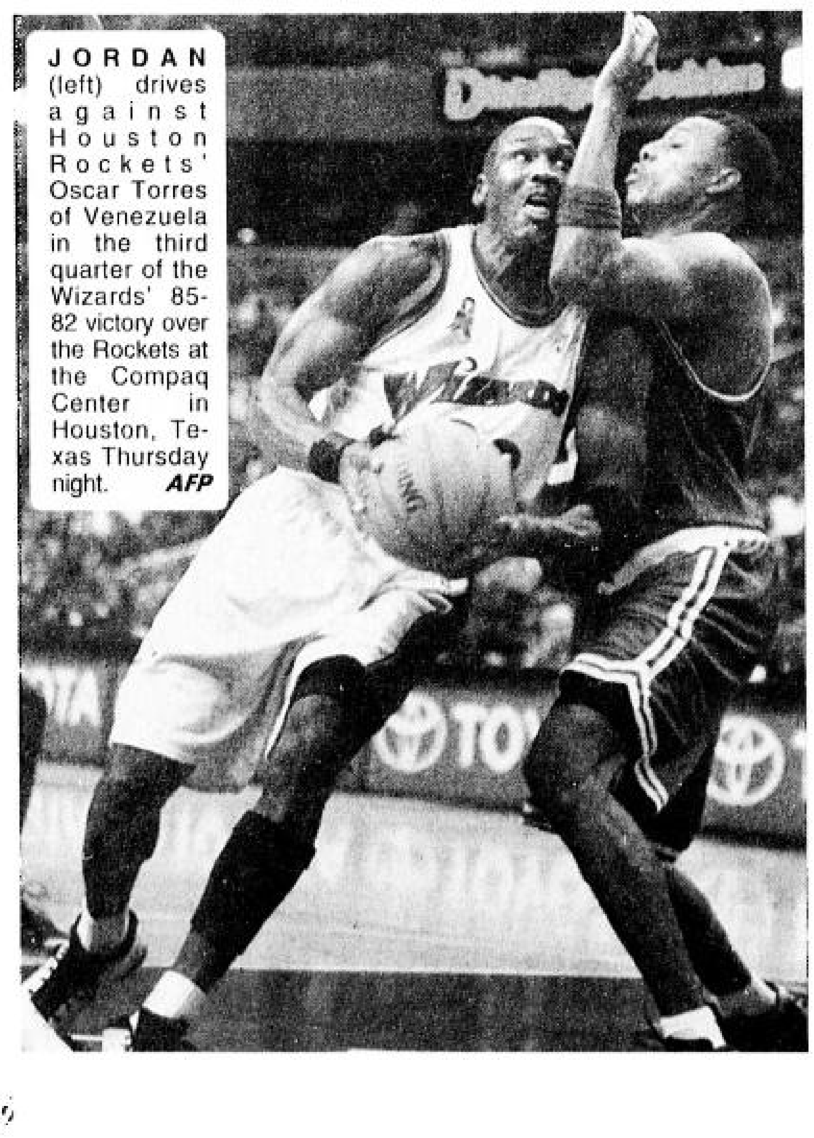
Rounding out the standing were Wack Wack 46, Valley 45, Canlubang which made a big jump from ninth to sixth at 44.5 Southwoods 43, Luisita 40.5, Eastridge 32.5 and Orchard 25.

Sta. Elena will host the final round and his will tremendously boost their bid for a second consecutive crown.

But title-hungry Alabang and Forest Hills will be there to challenge Sta. Elena's attempt for a repeat. The rest will need rousing comebacks to break into the title picture.

Many-time winner Luisita has so far been the biggest disappointment despite having the strongest seniors lineup. Wack Wack's charge, meanwhile, was spoiled by a measly point in Group III.

Among yesterday's top performances were Mike Romulo of Sta. Elena with a net 64 and Jimmy Feliciano of Canlubang with a gross 71.



JORDAN (left) drives against Houston Rockets' Oscar Torres of Venezuela in the third quarter of the Wizards' 85-82 victory over the Rockets at the Compaq Center in Houston, Texas Thursday night. *AFP*

Jordan returns to help Wizards beat Rockets

HOUSTON —Michael Jordan returned to the Washington lineup Thursday and scored 10 of his 18 points in the fourth period to lead the Wizards to an 85-82 victory over the Houston Rockets.

Jordan missed Tuesday night's game at San Antonio with a right knee injury, the first game he missed because of injury since March 5, 1993. He received a big ovation when he was introduced with the Wizards' Thursday lineup.

Jordan was at his best in the fourth quarter, hitting five baskets down the stretch, including a driving reverse layup that gave Washington a 66-62 lead with 9:07 to play. Moments later, he hit a 3.6-meter (12-foot) turnaround jumper that gave Washington a 68-63 lead.

Richard Hamilton led the Wizards with 26 points. Popeye Jones had 10 points and 10 rebounds.

Cuttino Mobley led Houston with 25 points, while Kelvin Cato added 12 points and 10 rebounds for the Rockets, who lost their eight consecutive game.

Timberwolves 105, Grizzlies 80

In Memphis, Tennessee, Terrell Brandon had 22 points and 10 assists, and Kevin Garnett added 20 points and 15 rebounds to lead the Minnesota Timberwolves to a 105-80 victory over the Memphis Grizzlies.

Minnesota built a 21-point lead at the half Thursday and went on to snap a four-game road losing streak.

Rasho Nesterovic and Wally Szczerbiak each added 14 points for the Timberwolves.

Pau Gasol led Memphis with 22 points and 11 rebounds. Jason Williams scored 11 points on 5-for-15 shooting as the Grizzlies absorbed their second straight lopsided loss. Memphis lost by 42 points in Orlando on Monday night.

Bucks 95, Raptors 89

In Milwaukee, Ray Allen scored 30 points and Sam Cassell added 23 as Milwaukee snapped a five-game losing streak with a victory over Toronto.

Allen and Cassell, who shot a combined 8-for-36 in a loss to New York on Tuesday night, improved against Toronto. Allen shot 12-for-22 and Cassell went 11-for-16.

Glenn Robinson and Tim Thomas each scored 13 for the Bucks, who were without coach George Karl. Karl missed the game because of the death of his father, who died Thursday morning at age 95.

Vince Carter scored 26 points, Keon Clark 18 and Alvin Williams 16 for the Raptors.

Hornets 95, Trail Blazers 89

In Portland, Oregon, Lee Nailon scored a career-high 26 points, and Baron Davis had 22 points and 12 assists as Charlotte ended a three-game losing streak with a victory over Portland.

Rasheed Wallace led the Blazers with 18 points, but his technical foul sparked the Hornets to a decisive 20-10 run over the final 7:22 of the third quarter.

David Wesley had 18 points for Charlotte, and P.J. Brown had 14 rebounds. Nailon added a career-high 11 rebounds.

Scottie Pippen started his first game since Nov. 13 for the Blazers and had 10 points and eight rebounds.

Complete results:

Wizards 85, Rockets 82; Timberwolves 105, Grizzlies 80; Bucks 95, Raptors 89; Hornets 95, Trail Blazers 89. *AP*

CAP-Southwoods, Mizuno-DHL up

JESS YUSON

FORMER national champion Emilio Tuason of Mizuño-DHL tees off on BCC's No. 1

By Al S. Mendoza

BAGUIO CITY—The homecoming became a feast of explosive scores yesterday as CAP-Southwoods virtually won the coveted Fil Division crown of the 52nd Fil-Am Golf Championship in the mists of wind and rain.

But Mizuno-DHL, given up for lost, suddenly stood on the brink of winning the other major crown—the Am Division—following a double whammy on Juami Rocha.

Rocha, CAP-Southwoods' mainstay in the Am Division, was found guilty twice for allowing his caddy to mark an opponent's scorecard in Rounds 1 and 2.

As a result, Rocha's huge 36 and 38 in the first two rounds were annulled, giving Mizuno-DHL the right to start today's round the leader by six points over CAP-Southwoods in the equally interesting battle for supremacy in the Am Divison.

"We accept the decision of the rules committee because the boy really made a mistake," said Freddie Mendoza and Jeric Hechanova, top officials of CAP-Southwoods.

Mizuno-DHL trailed CAP-Southwoods, which swept both crowns last year, by 30 points in the Am Division after yesterday's round.

But when the rules committee, after already having disqualified Rocha's Round 2 score, had discovered Rocha to have committed the same infraction in Round 1, Juami's opening-day 36 was also promptly annulled.

That 36 transformed into an instant 6-point margin for Mizuno-DHL going into today's final 18 holes.

"Divine justice I would term it as many of my fellow golfers in this great tournament kept saying it," said Lovell Gopez, team manager of both Mizuno-DHL squads.

But CAP-Southwoods remained virtually unchallenged in the Fil Championship with its 38-point margin over Mizuno-DHL, its supposed closest foe for the crown.

Finally playing a course they call home up North, CAP-Southwoods powerhouse fleet from down South in Carmona, Cavite, constructed a wondrous 9-under-par at Camp John Hay to nail down what could possibly be their third prime Fil-Am crown in three years.

Southwoods and John Hay are sister clubs owned by Fil-Estate.

Only the ugly specter of disqualification could destroy CAP-Southwoods' inexorable march to victory in this event still much-admired despite a rash of disqualifications kept hounding it the past three days.

CAP-Southwoods 153 yesterday from three sub-par rounds and a 1-over-par was too pretty it paled in comparison to its already mighty 134-133 crafted at nearby Baguio Country Club.

Jerome Delariarte sparked CAP-Southwoods' explosion at John Hay with 40 (4-under), followed by the 39s of Erwin Vinluan and Angelo Que, and the 35 of Artemio Murakami in the five-to-play, four-to-count format that gives 3 points to a birdie, 2 to a par and 1 to a bogey. Jun Jun Plana's not-so-bad 30 didn't count.

Even Delariarte's 2-point deduction charged to his team that he incurred when he holed out a double-bogey had become meaningless amid CAP-Southwoods' torrid showing at John Hay.

Mizuno-DHL now needs the gods of golf today to turn things around in the Fil Championship.

The anticipated rally never came yesterday for Mizuno-DHL, a team built around an array of some of Davao's best, two of them (Jay Bayron and Marvin Dumandan) just fresh from the SEA Games in Kuala Lumpur and the Putra Cup in Kota Kinabalu.

Bayron, the reigning Uratex champion, bombed out with a 29 at John Hay. Dumandan had 33.

Gene Bondoc, the youngest at 18 from Mizuno-DHL, continued his pacesetting stance with a 37 to go 1-over in the tournament in the only bright note for his beleaguered team.

Adding Mario Labajo's 35 and Emilio Tuason's 31, Mizuno-DHL could only toss in 136 to the 153 of title-bound CAP-Southwoods—an effort that all but ended all pretentions of victory in the fabled, 96-year-old event.

Thus, CAP-Southwods' three-day, 420 total as compared to Mizuno-DHL's 382 makes today's final round in the Fil Division a Mickey Mouse of a fight.

In the Fil B, one of many other divisions being fought with unwitting tenacity, SLGC-Master Sports tied Aguinaldo for the lead after it assembled a day-effort of 103 (Goody Ignacio 29, Ben Lilican 26, Francis Calma 26 and Benny Gopez 22; Daboy del Carmen's 21 did not count.) Aguinaldo fired 100.

True rules lovers

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

BAGUIO CITY—The score is 2-1 insofar as disqualifications are concerned in the heated rivalry for supremacy between defending champion CAP-Southwoods and chief challenger Mizuno-DHL.

Lyndon Barril of CAP-Southwoods was yanked out for signing a wrong scorecard while his teammate Juami Rocha got disqualified twice for allowing his caddy to mark an opponent's scorecard in Rounds 1 and 2.

Mizuno-DHL's Jojo Fernando's opening day round was annulled for signing a wrong scorecard.

Fernando's sin was inconsequential since Mizuno-DHL never really posed a serious challenge to CAP-Southwoods' title-retention bid in the Fil Championship, the prime crown in the 52nd Fil-Am.

It was Rocha's twin crimes that put a major twist to the drama suddenly unfolding in the Am Championship, an equally thrilling integral part of Fil-Am lore since the event's birth in 1905.

From being down by 30 points with 18 holes left to play, Mizuno-DHL suddenly found itself ahead by 6 following the annulment of Rocha's 36 and 38 in Rounds 1 and 2.

Oftentimes, golf is more a game of rules than talent, a game of mistakes than skills.

You can be good but your winnable score will amount to nothing if you are ignorant of the rules—or take the rules for granted.

Long after this 96th edition of the fabled Fil-Am is gone, many will remember it more for the ignorance—if not the consciencelessness—of some players than the fun and joy inherently present in the yearly joust.

May the tribe of the true lovers of the game increase.

And true lovers include golf's gentlemen of the first degree.

Cebu Midnight Run unfolds Dec. 15

THE FIRST-EVER Cebu Midnight 5K Run fires off on Dec. 15 at the City Sports Club of the Cebu Business Park.

Race director Raffy Uytiepo and CSCC assistant manager Bingo Santos said the race, which is limited to just 150 runners on a first-come-first served basis, is patterned after the New York City Midnight Run held on New Years Eve at Central Park.

The event, which is expected to draw Cebu's top runners, is co-sponsored by Pharmaton Capsules, Adidas, Rudy Project, Gatorade, Island Grill Express, Nature's Spring and Cebu Holdings.

Already confirming their participation are Plantation Bay's German chef Dietmar Platz, Japan's Hiro Takei, and Max Telford of New Zealand who was once listed in the Guinness Book of World Records as having run over 8,000 kilometers in 104 days. Also joining the run are triathletes Abet Biagan, Cris Aldeguer, Nonoy Jopson, Amale Mendezona, boxing champions Rev. Santillan and Dindo Castañares and members of the Cebu Executive Runners Club headed by newly appointed RTC judge Gabby Ingles and Ombudsman Ed Canton.

Handcrafted Italian trophies, medals and Rudy Project eyewears await the winners with all participants receiving singlets while being treated to snacks and drinks.

Registration is now ongoing at the City Sports Club Cebu at the Cebu Business Park c/o Bingo Santos and the PSC Region VII office at the Cebu City Sports c/o Audie Marte.

Ucap 4-cock derby fires off tonight

THE UCAP Sentenciador 4-Cock Derby gets going at 7 tonight at the Mandaluyong Coliseum with more than 50 fights on tap.

Sponsors are Sagupaan Super Feeds and Washout Shampoo.

Veteran cockfight referee Berong Javellana, senior Ucap *sentenciador*, is hosting the event.

Seeing action tonight are Vic YU, Ram Lopez, Boy Diaz, Biboy Enriquez, Jeremy Pineda, Judge Paneda, Jun Topacio, engineer Jun Sevilla, William Go, Boy Lechon de Roca, Louie Cua, Benjie Lim, Patrick Antonio, Raymond Velayo, Ucap president Butch Macasaet, Rep. Claudy Bautista, Esting Teopaco, Tony Tan, Mauro Prieto, Bobby del Rosario, Boyet Plaza, Sonny Lagon and Ricky Castillo.

Meanwhile, the 1st Ucap/Hammer Sagupaan Altuz 7-Cock Derby fires off this coming Tuesday and Thursday, Dec. 11 and 13. Derby hosts are *sabong* idol Patrick Antonio and lawyer Ram Lopez.

This event is the first of 15 Ucap derbies (13 national and two international) that will serve as basis in choosing the Ucap Cocker of the Year 2002 winner.

Paying patrons who bought tickets in either of the five Mandaluyong derbies, namely, Rotary 5-Cock Derby (Dec. 1), Berong Javellana 4-Cock Derby (Dec. 8), Sagupaan Altuz 7-Cock Derby (Dec. 11 and 13), Gaffers 4-Cock Derby (Dec. 18) and 4-Cock Vendors Derby (Dec. 20) are automatically qualified in the raffle draw on Dec. 20.

RP karatekas shine in Perth

TEAM Philippines won two golds, three silvers and two bronzes in the recent 3rd Karate-do Goju-Kai World Championships in Perth, Australia.

The Association for the Advancement of Karatedo (AAK) said the gold medal winners were Joel Mallillin, recent National Open Champion, in the men's-7-kg kumite and Norman "Sonny" Montalvo from Jose Rizal University in the 12-14 years old Boys' kumite.

Montalvo also won the silver in the boys' individual kata. Other silver medalists were Rebecca Torres in the eight years old and below girls' kumite and Muriel Farinas in the 12-14 years old girls' kumite.

Bronze medalists were former SEA Games and Asian medalist Kristina de Jesus-Laforteza in the women's individual kata and Miguel Belasquez from Don Bosco Makati in the boy's individual kata.

Meanwhile, AAK Team Philippines to the Asia Pacific Shito-Ryu Championships in Singapore won two golds and three bronzes recently.

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TRIBUTE TO PRES. MIKE VARELA

PCCI GOLFEST

The Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry staged the 1st PCCI President's Cup (A Tribute to president Mike Varela) last Dec. 5 at the North Course, Canlubang Golf and Country Club. Photo shows Armin K. Sebial (left) tournament chair and general manager of Arconseb Enterprises, and Salter Han, tournament director and president of the Las Piñas Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

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2	LAGUNA	16	9	11	36
3	BACOLOD CITY	11	12	12	35
4	MUNTINLUPA CITY	10	9	5	24
5	CEBU PROVINCE	10	4	11	25
6	RIZAL	8	2	13	23
7	CEBU CITY	7	15	10	32
8	NEGROS OCCIDENTAL	6	11	15	32
9	ALBAY	5	10	5	20

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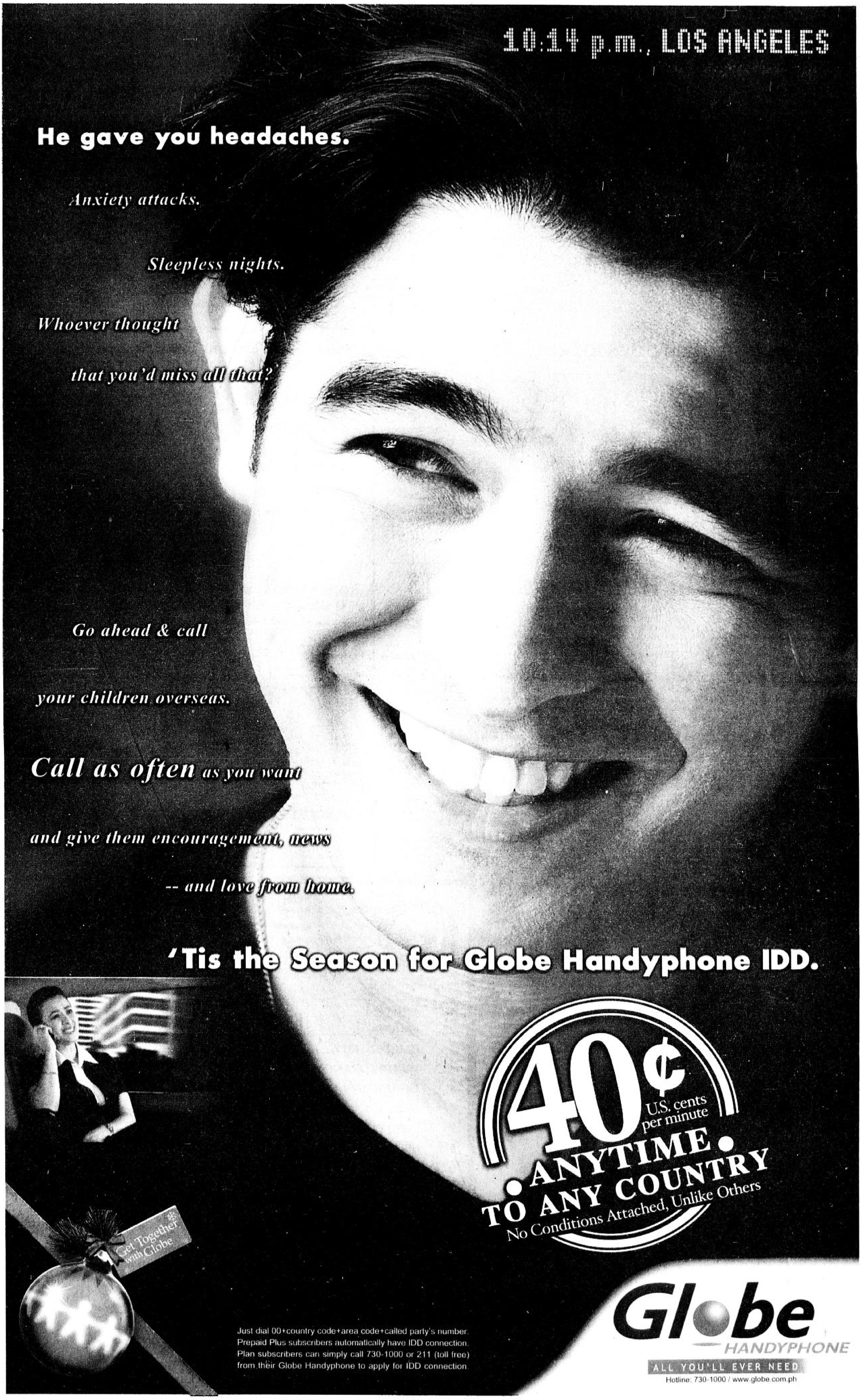
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METRO
LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Thermoselect: It's gasification, not incineration A27
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Residents sue mayor over dump

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

RESIDENTS and officials of Rodriguez (formerly Montalban), Rizal have sued their own mayor for signing a contract for the construction of a landfill in their town to be used as a dump for Metro Manila's trash.

Dr. Pastor Cruz, a retired government veterinarian and convenor of the Mamamayan ng Montalban Ayaw sa Basura (MMAB), yesterday filed a complaint against Mayor Pedro Cuerpo before the Office of the Ombudsman for violation of the provincial ordinance requiring the prior approval of the provincial board for such garbage sites.

Cruz said Cuerpo unilaterally initiated the establishment and construction of a landfill in a 140,000-square-meter private lot in Lukutan Munti in Montalban.

The project, Cruz said, did not have the approval of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan through a concurring resolution as required in the Rizal Anti-Garbage/Waste Dumping Ordinance of 1996.

Cruz filed an administrative complaint against Cuerpo on the same grounds with the office of Rizal Gov. Rebecca Ynares.

The Montalban landfill was the one being eyed by the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) as a dump for Metro Manila's garbage starting the first week of December. On Nov. 27, MMDA Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. had announced that the dump would be open in a week's time.

But Cruz said Montalban residents would block any attempt to dump Metro Manila's garbage in their midst.

"Metro Manila's trash had been rejected by local officials of Carmona, San Mateo, Antipolo, Semirara and Bataan, and it's just here in Montalban that our own mayor is offering his town to be a garbage dump," said Celestino Alcantara, MMAB counsel.

The Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System had reportedly ordered to stop the construction work on an access road leading to the landfill site that cuts through the La Mesa watershed in Quezon City.

Abalos earlier assured mayors of Metro Manila that an access road would be available for use of the dump trucks.

MWSS administrator Jose Mabanta on Nov. 15 ordered Col. Francisco Bravo, commanding officer of the 51st Army Engineering Brigade, to discontinue any work inside the La Mesa Reservation in connection with the proposed access road until the engineering design and plans are reviewed and approved by the MWSS engineering department.

Army engineers had already demolished a concrete fence of the La Mesa watershed and cut down some trees for the access road.

As early as Aug. 28, Cuerpo had offered to the Office of the President a site in his town as a garbage dump for Metro Manila in exchange for funds for the construction of roads that would

RESIDENTS SUE/ A27

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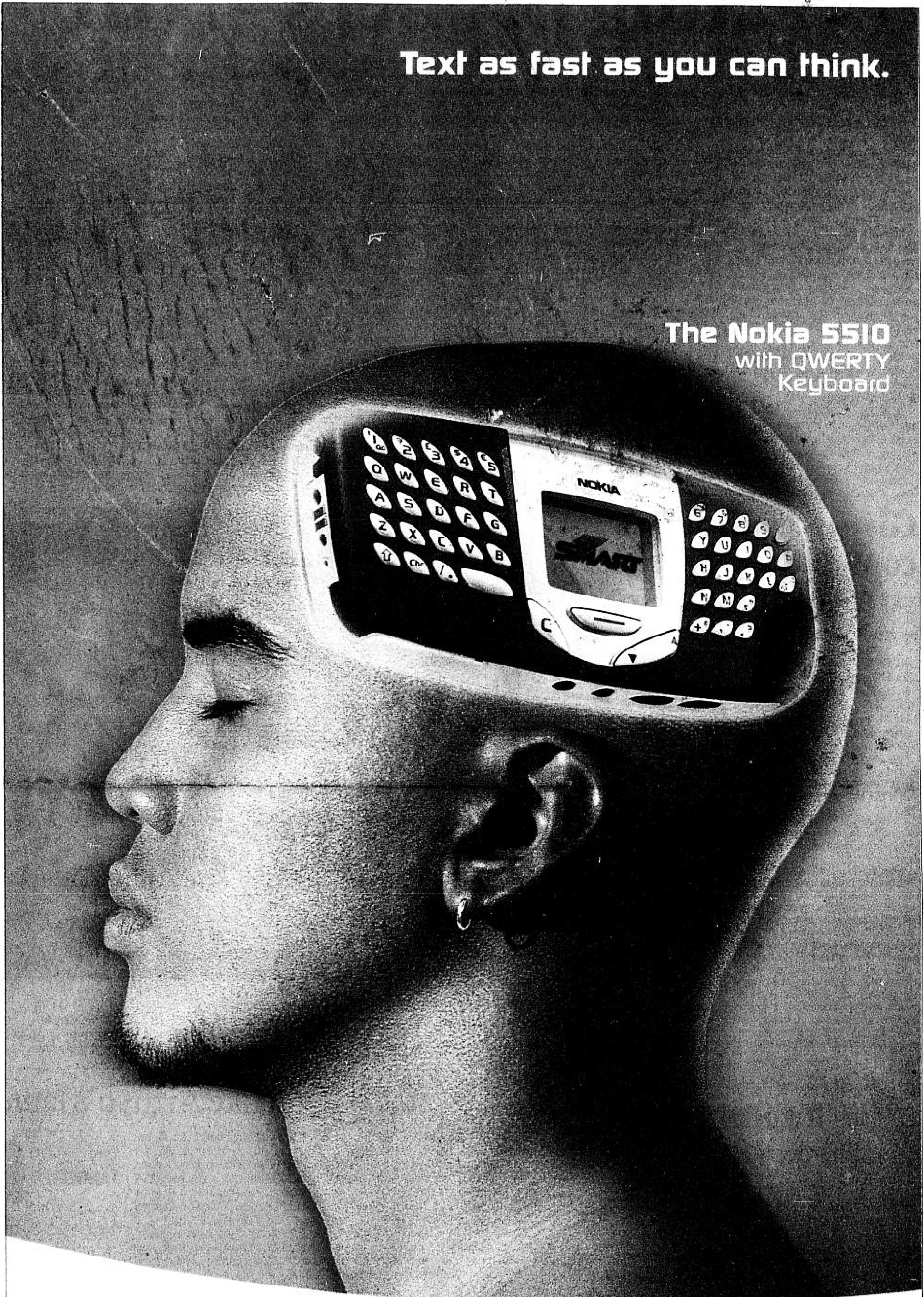

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Matibag has no business directing probers–NBI

By Philip C. Tubeza and Blanche S. Rivera

THE NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation yesterday said former Commission on Elections director Angelina Matibag "has no business" dictating on the bureau on how its agents must conduct the investigation of the murder of Velma Cinco, Matibag's successor.

"Ms Matibag has no business directing us to exclude ourselves from the investigation of the Velma Cinco murder case," said NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco. "It is within the mandate of the NBI to investigate heinous crimes unmindful of who the perpetrator is and without fear or favor."

"If she is already impatient to be invited to the NBI, she should not worry, we will invite her later," Wycoco added.

Matibag accused the NBI the other day of fabricating evidence against her, adding that "higher powers" were directing the NBI investigation to pin her down.

Matibag referred to Comelec chair Alfredo Benipayo, who yesterday denied he had any links in the NBI which he can use to influence the investigation to pin down perceived "enemies" in the Comelec for the Cinco murder.

Benipayo also said he did not know of, much worse, order the surveillance on Commissioner Luz Tancangco, with whom Benipayo has been at odds since he took over the Comelec.

The Comelec chief said his dealings with the NBI were "purely professional" and that he did not have close association with NBI officials.

"I have never even spoken with Director Wycoco since the murder happened," Benipayo said in a press conference yesterday. "I have refused to comment on the Cinco murder precisely because I did not want them to think I was trying to affect the investigation."

Benipayo added he did not want to intrude in police matters.

He said the NBI has not even given him an official report on the progress of the investigation and that he had to rely mainly on media to monitor the inquiry.

But Benipayo admitted he sought the help of the NBI to investigate the "unexplained wealth" of former Comelec director Matibag, the suspected mastermind of the Cinco ambush.

Benipayo said he asked the NBI to look into the assets of Matibag, former head of the Comelec education and information department, because Matibag did not file her statement of assets and liabilities when she was still with the Bureau of Customs.

Benipayo said "there was nothing wrong with (seeking NBI intervention)," even as Matibag accused the Comelec chair of using his influence over the NBI for a matter unrelated to police inquiry.

Matibag said Benipayo and the NBI had been harassing her long before Cinco was murdered on Nov. 20, proof that the Comelec chair exercised influence over the investigating agency.

Benipayo also shrugged off accusations that he had something to do with the alleged surveillance of Tancangco, as warned by Matibag.

He said he has not seen or spoken with Matibag since Cinco was shot dead, adding that Matibag has a wild imagination.

"I don't know where Atty. Matibag got the information that I was very angry," he said. "I've never talked to her."

Matibag wanted the inquiry into Cinco's murder removed from the NBI to "any other investigating body" because the higher ups in the Comelec were allegedly directing the investigation against her.

Task Force C-5 (Comelec-Cinco), the lead investigating group, came up with a list of suspects all of whom were, in one way or the other, connected with Matibag.

Edmund Arugay, head of the NBI-National Capital Region unit, said Matibag had the right to request other law agencies to enter the investigation, but he maintained that he did not receive any directive to "favor or exclude anybody" in the investigation of Cinco's murder.

"Results of the investigation largely come from the statements of witnesses in the scene of the crime," Arugay said.

He said the bureau made a breakthrough in the investigation when it apprehended suspect Conrado Robles in San Pascual, Batangas last week.

Robles, 47, of Barangay Malakimpook, San Pascual, Batangas, was arrested and charged with murder and frustrated murder before the Manila Regional Trial Court.

Cinco's sister, Marian S. Jayme, identified Robles as one of those who ambushed her sister.

"We were even surprised that, within 10 minutes of Robles' arrest in Batangas, the lawyers of Matibag were already in the NBI office," Arugay said. "I have not even mentioned the name of Ms Ma. Angelina Matibag in all my reports to the NBI director."

Cinco was ambushed on Nov. 20 at the corner of Pedro Gil and Eden streets in Sta. Ana, Manila, while she was on her way to work on her red Kia Pride (TDR 779) with her son Carlo and sister Jayme.

Cinco, 62, was shot four times in the head and body. Carlo was hit in the shoulder while Jayme was unhurt.

Manila policemen protest transfers

By Philip C. Tubeza

MANILA'S Finest Brotherhood, the association of Manila policemen, yesterday branded as an "abuse of discretion" the transfer of metro policemen to the provinces.

In a statement signed by its officers, the 3,000-strong Brotherhood "strongly urge that serious consideration and study must be immediately undertaken to stop the indiscriminate transfer of policemen to different regions."

"All transferred policemen (should) be recalled back and appropriate legal action be properly instituted … in order to promote unity and revitalization of our present police organization," added the members, who are all detailed to the Western Police District.

The WPD policemen are complaining about the new disciplinary rules of Metro police chief Director Edgar Aglipay. In the new set of rules, Aglipay requires policemen to be present and be on time during roll call formation.

Those who are late or be absent thrice, without a legitimate reason, will be transferred to the provinces. Aglipay said 270 policemen have already been shipped out of town.

The Brotherhood said the transfers will not solve the problem, and is in fact causing dissension.

"Instead of instilling rapport and discipline amount its subordinates, superior officers are only inviting divisiveness and demoralization among its men for being too harsh, which is an open manifestation of abuse discretion in giving penalties," the group said.

The Brotherhood said policemen "become useless and ineffective" if they are assigned to a place where "he is a complete stranger."

They said language barriers and unfamiliarity of the place and its customs will greatly hinder a transplanted Manila policeman in the performance of his duties.

The group added the transfer of the affected lawmen would cause delays in the investigation of their respective cases in Manila as well as the progress of the cases in court.

The Brotherhood said "the PNP leadership must consider the citizens' right to the protection of the law, which must also apply to policemen as well."

The Brotherhood described Aglipay's way of implementing the rules as "a clear abuse of discretion … (with) complete disregard for one's basic right to due process."

It accused the Regional Investigation and Inspection Committee of committing "a clear abuse of discretion."

The RIIC makes surprise inspections to check the attendance of policemen during roll call formations.

Give us control over cops and we'll make streets safe–mayors

By Christian V. Esguerra

ON THE same day that President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo expressed her disgust over the country's peace and order situation, Metro Manila mayors renewed their demand for the return of police control to them.

Parañaque Mayor Joey Marquez said placing law enforcers under the exclusive control of local governments would more effectively curb criminality.

"Give us control (over the police) and we'll make sure that people are safe in the streets," Marquez said on Thursday.

Marquez made the statement after Ms Macapagal berated law enforcement agencies for their apparent failure to effectively address the country's peace and order situation. She identified peace and order as the "dampener" of her administration's efforts to put the economy back on track.

In a recent forum in Pasay City, Manila Mayor Lito Atienza said putting police under local control would enable mayors to detail law enforcers familiar to their areas of jurisdiction. Under the present national police system, police officers are assigned in places where they are not familiar with, said Atienza.

This makes it hard for policemen to efficiently patrol their areas and have inherent concern on residents there, he added.

Those against the mayors' proposal were concerned that local officials might make private armies out of policemen.

"It's all right to be accused of having a private army as long as I can guarantee the safety of my constituents," Marquez said.

He said he would hire about 600 security guards to augment the local police force.

Chief Supt. Romeo Maganto, former director of the Southern Police District, threw his support on the mayors but for a different reason.

Maganto said placing police under local control would ease the "marginalization of non-PMA graduates" in the Philippine National Police. He claimed that police officers who came from the Philippine Constabulary when the PNP was established do not receive similar opportunities given to graduates of the Philippine Military Academy.

Maganto, the only remaining police general from the PC, is currently on floating status after he supposedly drew the ire of a ranking PNP officer, who was a PMA product.

BETOY JOHNSON

RED CROSS BEAUTIES

Miss Philippine Red Cross 2001 Janice Gay Alop (center) is flanked by (from left) 4th runner-up Noemi Amante of Cebu, 1st runner-up Catherine Claire Corpua of Guimaras, 2nd runner-up Abiline Alhambra of Manila and 3rd runner-up Gemma Louise Heaton of Quezon City. They were crowned Thursday night.

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News that makes a difference

Mike Arroyo's lament

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

THE "WEAKEST link" in the strong chain of President Macapagal-Arroyo's popularity is First Gentleman Mike Arroyo, according to the latest survey of the prestigious Social Weather Stations (SWS).

The President's husband got a negative 21 net rating in the survey that also showed Ms Arroyo's ratings at an "all-time" high.

Poor Mike! He's not done anything illegal or immoral to make him unpopular among the citizens who were questioned in the survey.

***

The perception that Mike Arroyo is involved in scandals or irregularities is a result of accusations by his detractors who have not so far presented a shred of evidence.

It was easy to hit at Arroyo because only very few people would believe the President is capable of committing irregularities.

Almost all the close relatives and associates of past presidents of the republic were perceived tainted with scandals. Even the relatives of President Cory Aquino, who was clean as driven snow, were—rightly or wrongly—linked to scandals. In Ms Aquino's case, it was more "rightly" than "wrongly."

Mike Arroyo is wrongly perceived to be tainted with corruption because he is likened to Ms Aquino's corrupt "Kamaganak Inc."

***

"Why are they doing this to me, Mon? I don't interfere in the President's business. I have done nothing wrong that would put GMA to shame," Arroyo told me over the phone from San Francisco, California. "I don't deserve all this."

Mr. Arroyo, you have to put up with all the criticisms that come your way because it comes with the territory.

If you were not the President's husband, would they hit you the way they do?

***

Another character who's being hounded by bad publicity is Zamboanga City businessman Lepeng Wee.

New reports (not the Inquirer's) said that Wee was with Sen. Panfilo Lacson in Sabah to meet with a Malaysian legislator who was involved in last year's ransom payments to the Abu Sayyaf. Wee is in Manila and has never left the country.

The implication is that Wee is chummy-chummy with the opposition senator. This might bring upon Wee another round of harassment by some people in government.

***

Wee was recently absolved by the Department of Justice of charges that he was involved in smuggling dangerous drugs into the country.

The DOJ found the charges without basis.

The charges were orchestrated by his political enemy, the Lobregats of Zamboanga City, and Customs Collector Lourdes Mangawang.

***

If Malaysia deports Moro leader Nur Misuari to the Philippines, the government should accept him with open arms and clap him in jail while he's being tried for rebellion.

The government should not show fear of reprisal from Misuari followers from the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF). It should instead make Misuari answer for attacking Army outposts in Sulu recently.

Moros smell fear from their enemy. They go in for the kill when they smell fear. But they retreat when they see that their enemy will stand his ground.

***

Some undisciplined Manila policemen are like the Moros: they will threaten to walk out of their jobs over rules not to their liking.

The undisciplined cops are up in arms against an order issued recently by Metro Manila police chief Edgardo Aglipay. The order says that all cops must attend roll call formation every day before they go about their job.

And, like the bluffing Moros, the undisciplined cops retreated when they saw that Aglipay would punish them if they didn't comply with the new regulation. Aglipay said he would transfer to the provinces members of the Western Police District (WPD) who would disobey the new regulation.

***

The constitutional provision that integrated members of the Philippine Constabulary and the Integrated National Police into one force called the Philippine National Police (PNP) is defective.

The New Constitution provides for a national police force that is "civilian in character."

This "civilian in character" phrase has brought indiscipline among the PNP ranks.

***

The Cory Aquino Constitution favors undisciplined policemen.

Before, members of the Integrated National Police were subject to the same discipline imposed on Philippine Constabulary soldiers. An erring cop, for example, can be suspended and detained on the spot by his superiors if evidence against him is very strong.

That's passé now. An erring cop will have to undergo "due process of law" before he can be suspended or dismissed. Before, a cop was subject to military discipline. Now, he's subject to civil service rules because he's already a civilian.

Given our lousy system of justice, abusive policemen remain in the service because of the "due process" provision in our laws.

Now, a policeman can question an order assigning him to other places by bringing it to court.

Thermoselect: It's gasification, not incineration

By N'Teng Yew
Contributor

THE NEW garbage technology called thermoselect processes garbage through gasification, converting trash into unburned hot gasified garbage or UHoGG, pronounced like the Filipino word for nasal fluids.

Contrary to allegations that thermoselect is incineration, which is outlawed under the Clean Air Act, thermoselect converts all waste materials into gaseous fuel in a closed-loop process based on high temperature gasification.

But gasification is not a new technology. Conversion of organic solids into a hot gaseous fuel has long been possible via a non-burn method of cooking, which is also known as gasification. Like natural gas and other gaseous fuels to which ample air, and therefore ample oxygen, can be better mixed, unburned hot gasified garbage or UHoGG is a fuel that burns or combusts more effectively than its solid and liquid counterparts.

The closer to complete combustion, the lesser pollutants are released. Perfect combustion is when zero pollutant is produced, unless something definitely polluting was already present in the fuel mix prior to combustion.

Coal and uranium rods are examples of solid fuel.

Gasoline and diesel are liquids. A major reason why gaseous fuels are not used in automobiles is because fuel tanks will need to be a lot larger than the cars themselves. Liquefied gas on the other hand requires only a smaller but pressurized volume for storage.

UHoGG as fuel

UHoGG too, can be liquefied, stored in pressure tanks, and sold to households. But perhaps UHoGG is best as fuel for generating electricity.

Gasification is the method of vaporizing organic solids in the absence of air or oxygen to produce an organic gas fuel.

If air or oxygen is present, the heated material would burn /ignite /incinerate / combust /oxidize.

So there is smoke, but no fire in gasification.

Gasification has been tried and tested in our country. The oil crisis of the early '70s prompted the Marcos government to fund research on gasification of agri wastes. Producer gas, as how gasified agri wastes were then called, was piped into small diesel engines which drove small electric generators.

Another early attempt was the gasification of waste from rice mills. But rice husks proved to be too tiny, and clogged the vanes of the rotary siphon/feeder blowers.

UHoGG is the type of producer gas derived from garbage.

THERMOSELECT/ A31

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Land and food without poisons

By Joey C. Papa
Contributor

LAND and food without poisons is synonymous to a zero waste environment.

The application of chemical fertilizers, pesticides, and genetically modified or engineered organisms (GMOs or GEOs) in agriculture is part and parcel of the culture of destruction that also includes the promotion of incinerators and other strategies purportedly intended to solve the world's problems.

A House of Representatives bill has been filed by Bayan Muna party-list representatives Satur Ocampo, Crispin Beltran, and Liza Masa to prohibit the entry, sale, processing, field testing and release of crops and food products containing GMOs/GEOs into the country. The bill defines genetic engineering as "the manipulation in the laboratory of the genetic code of a living organism — plant or animal. It involves taking bits of DNA from one species and putting it into the DNA of another in order to mimic certain desired characteristics."

Hysteria

The proponents of GMOs or GEOs say that these crops will solve the problem of world food hunger. More and more people, however, are finding out the truth behind all the hysteria that the world is growing hungry, just like the hysteria whipped up about the Philippines drowning in garbage.

Thus, the International Alliance against Agrochemical Transnational Corporations (IAAATNCs) was launched on Dec. 3 at the Environmental Education Center of Miriam College in Quezon City. The IAAATNCs is made up of organizations, social movements, institutions, networks, scientists, and individuals from various countries committed to resist the global control of agrochemical TNCs over agriculture especially in developing or underdeveloped countries like the Philippines.

The day after the launching, IAAATNCs held a picket at the Ayala Alabang office of Monsanto (now owned by Pharmacia) to attract public attention to the potentially serious harm that GMOs/GEOs can cause on the environment and the health of humans and other living beings. This company, to quote the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas, is one of the "agrochemical transnational giants."

LAND AND FOOD/ A30

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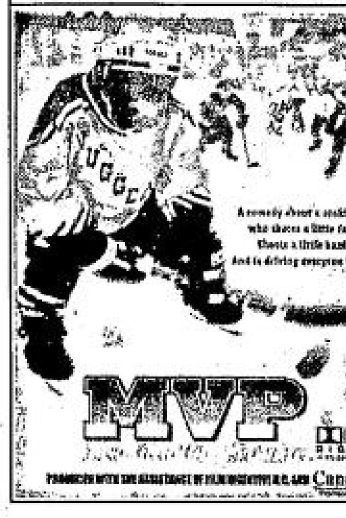

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2 more Chua slay witnesses emerge

By Michael Lim Ubac and Christian V. Esguerra

THE DEPARTMENT of Justice yesterday ordered the reopening of its preliminary investigation of the killing of University of Santo Tomas student and ROTC cadet Mark Chua after two more witnesses surfaced at the National Bureau of Investigation.

Also yesterday, six witnesses in Chua's killing have asked the DOJ to include them in its witness protection program. The witnesses claimed they have been receiving death threats since they implicated fellow UST cadets in the killing of Chua last month.

"A group reportedly allied with the murder suspects is now on the prowl, harassing the witnesses through high-handed tactics, said Chua's father in a statement.

State prosecutor Aristotle Reyes said during a DOJ hearing that the preliminary investigation should be reopened to allow witnesses Jeremy Gabriel S. Dunuan and Franco Salvador M. Suelto to testify before the DOJ panel.

Dunuan and Suelto were both cadet officers of the UST Reserve Officers' Training Course (ROTC) when Chua was murdered in March this year. Reyes scheduled the continuation of the preliminary investigation on Dec. 10.

The DOJ earlier terminated the investigation after both parties submitted their last pleadings. The complaint for murder filed against ROTC cadet officers Michael Von Rainard Managbao, Eduardo Tabrilla, Paul Joseph Tan and Patrick Christopher Cruz was then deemed submitted for resolution.

But NBI supervising agent Primitivo Najera Jr. asked Reyes to reopen the investigation "on the ground of newly discovered evidence."

In a one-page motion, Najera said Suelto appeared before him on Nov. 23 and volunteered to testify against the suspects. Suelto claimed he personally witnessed how Chua's body was taken out of the UST DMST Building in the evening of March 15, 2001

Dunuan corroborated Suelto's testimony in a two-page affidavit executed on Nov. 27 with the DOJ.

Chua's father Welson also asked UST officials to help provide security to the witnesses outside of the campus.

In his sworn statement, a witness claimed that one of the suspects had threatened that none of the witnesses would ever reach the witness stand, said Welson. He said that a group of men tried to take the witness and his mother from their house early this week. But the witness reportedly escaped.

Those who killed and kidnapped Chua are "currently undertaking surveillance operations...and are involved in psychological warfare" to force the witnesses to retract their statements out of fear, Welson said.

The witnesses had claimed in affidavits that they saw the suspects conducting supposed initiation rites on someone at the UST Reserve Officers Training Corps office on the same day that Chua went missing. They said the person they saw was hogtied, and his head was covered with what looked like a packaging tape.

Chua's body was found floating in the Pasig River the following day. His body was wrapped in a carpet, and his hands and feet were tied with shoelaces. His head was also wrapped with packaging tape.

Residents sue mayor over dump

(From page A25)

spur the town's economic growth and development.

In a "Proposal for Development" submitted to Malacañang, Cuerpo said the dumpsite should be within the mining and quarry zone far from the town site, and garbage trucks would not be allowed to pass through any existing road, thus the need for the access road.

The proposal bore fruit last October in the form of a memorandum of agreement between Presidential Management Staff chief Vicky Garchitorena and Cuerpo, wherein Malacañang agreed to release P40 million from the President's Social Fund to the municipal government in exchange for its accommodation of Metro Manila's waste. President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo approved the release of the funds on Oct. 2.

On Oct. 30, the MOA was approved by the city council, but Alcantara said Cuerpo has not submitted the MOA to the Sangguniang Panlalawigan for approval.

"Cuerpo knew it would be, rejected by the provincial government," Alcantara said.

Alcantara said Vice Mayor Meylo Sta. Isabel and councilors Jonas Cruz, Cesar Carmona and Ellen Qien were opposed to the landfill project.

Cruz said Abalos would be liable if the MMDA would push through with the dumping of Metro Manila's garbage in the site. He said the site had not been prepared and fenced, and is even located beside a creek.

"You could just imagine the health and environmental disaster that will come upon us once the leachate seeps down to the water bed and the creek," Cruz said.

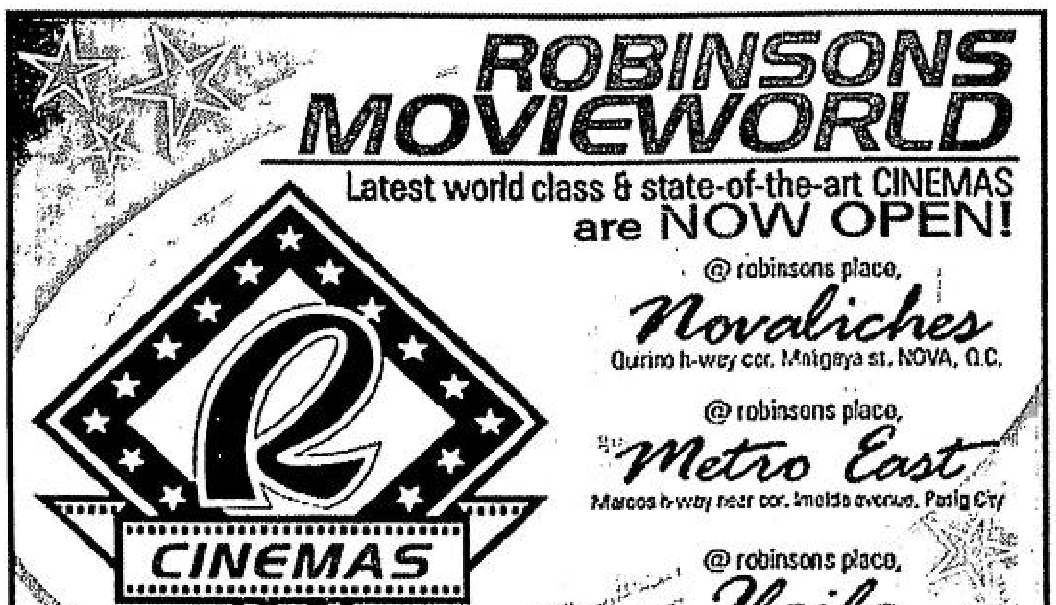
The site is on a land owned by Abelardo Salazar and Reynaldo Perez, both of Quezon City. Under a contract they signed with Cuerpo, the two shall be responsible for the construction and operation of the landfill. As part of the deal, the lot owners shall also share in the fees collected from local government units but shall not share in whatever losses and expenses that may be incurred in the operation.

Protest over Araneta land in Caloocan

TENSION rose in Caloocan City on Thursday when thousands of Pangarap Village residents rallied in protest of the Araneta family's move to close Gregorio Araneta Avenue to public utility vehicles.

The residents marched in protest after the Aranetas posted a notice claiming ownership of the thousand-hectare Pangarap Village and banning jeepneys and tricycles on Araneta Avenue, which is allegedly a private road. Barangay captain Renato Borbon said the ban was illegal, as only the city government has jurisdiction over streets, roads and other open spaces.

Caloocan Councilor Nathaniel Santiago said in a phone interview that at least 10,000 families would be affected if the road would be closed to public vehicles. *Agnes Donato*



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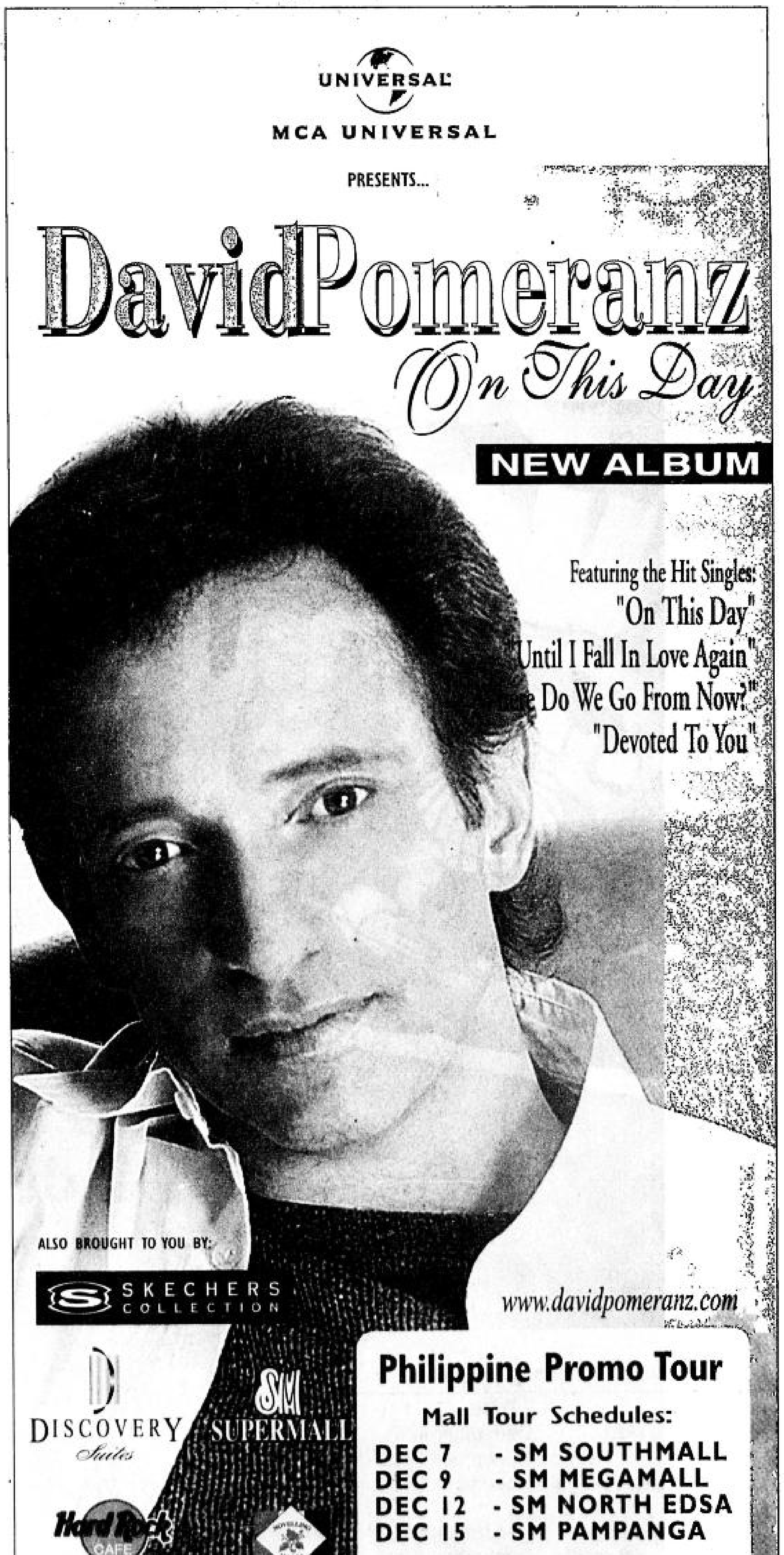

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Pirated disc factory raided

BY NELSON F. FLORES

POLICE raided a factory producing pirated video and audio compact discs in Pasig City, arrested six people, including four Malaysians, and seized about P50 million worth of CD-making machines and CD writers.

Supt. John Sosito, Pasig City police chief, identified the Malaysians as Ng Koh Wah, 23, Shing Yoke, 22, Kaw Chin, 39, and Hong Yhean, 40. Also arrested were electrician Rizalino Ibanez, 41, and driver Melvin Fernando, 25.

Police said they received a tip from an informant that the operators of Evergrow Enterprises on Sgt. Pascua Street in Barangay Bagong Ilog have been churning out illegal video and audio compact discs that were sold on the sidewalks of Metro Manila.

On Wednesday night, police raided the factory and confiscated two plastic injection molding machines, each worth P18 million, and some fake computer software used in the manufacture of pirated CDs and VCDs, Sosito said.

The Pasig police chief also learned that the seized equipment could produce a single audio or video compact disc in 20 seconds.

Pirated CDs are sold openly on the streets, with prices ranging from P50 to P150, depending on the nature and quality of the disc.

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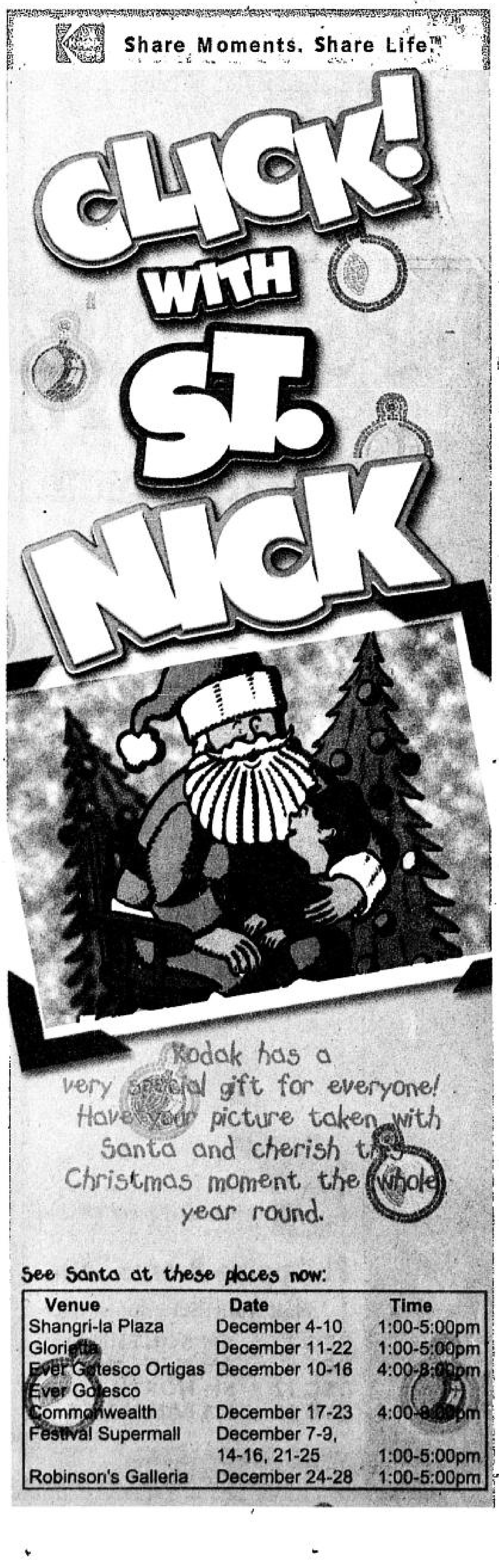

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Ever Gotesco Ortigas	December 10-16	4:00-8:00pm
Ever Gotesco Commonwealth	December 17-23	4:00-8:00pm
Festival Supermall	December 7-9, 14-16, 21-25	1:00-5:00pm
Robinson's Galleria	December 24-28	1:00-5:00pm

Cinemanila hopes to revive RP as Asia's film capital

BY LEAH SALTERIO

THE OPENING of the 3rd Cinemanila International Film Festival Thursday night is meant to prove that the Philippines could make a comeback as the region's film capital.

This year's Cinemanila opened at Onstage in Greenbelt in Makati and was attended by filmmakers, critics and film producers from different countries.

"We are confident that as a result of Makati's commitment to the arts, the Philippines will once again be acknowledged as the film capital of Asia and a premier destination for the international arts and culture community," said Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay, whose city hosts the 3rd Cinemanila Filmfest.

The foreign guests included New Zealand actress Danielle Cormack and Thai filmmaker Nonzee Nimibutr.

Cormack stars in "The Price of Milk," one of the 80 international films to be screened in the nine-day festival.

Nimibutr is one of Thailand's most successful directors who is recognized in the international film circuit.

Guest of honor at the gala opening was President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, who lauded the event for promoting the country's arts, culture and tourism.

Ms Macapagal commended festival organizers for remaining vigilant in improving the quality of and promoting Philippine films.

Cinemanila is a project of the Independent Cinema Association of the Philippines, with director Tikoy Aguiluz as founder.

"If you're looking for Hollywood, then you're in the wrong venue," Aguiluz said. "These films represent the best of independent cinema all over the world."

"Cinemanila represents our vision to offer Makati to the rest of the world," said Binay in his welcome remarks.

"We are confident that with Cinemanila, the Makati City government will be able to create a permanent interest in Makati as a venue for quality films and other art forms."

Three critically acclaimed films were screened on opening night — South Korea's "Chunhyang" by Im Kwon Taek, Belgium's "No Man's Land" by Danis Tanovic and France's "Under the Sand" by Francois Ozon.

The festival, which officially started yesterday, will run until Dec. 16. Featured are feature films, short features and documentaries from 29 participating countries which also include Thailand, Turkey, Mexico, Norway, USA, Germany, Czech Republic, Netherlands, Canada, Singapore, Malaysia, Hong Kong, New Zealand, Sri Lanka, Japan, Israel, Iran and the Philippines.

"Isn't it rather ironic that Cinemanila did not get any support last year during the term of Erap, (Joseph Estrada), a former movie actor," noted a Filipino film critic based abroad.

"It is very solicitous of Ms Macapagal to extend support to Cinemanila this year," the critic added.

Noted businessman Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala represented his family, who offered to support Cinemanila by allowing free use of the Greenbelt and Glorietta cinemas for the screening of the movies.

On gala night, Cinemanila gave lifetime achievement awards to three pillars of Philippine cinema — actor-director Eddie Garcia and veteran actresses Gloria Romero and Rosa Rosal.

Romero and Rosal, however, were not on hand to receive their trophies. Romero was represented by TV producer, host and starmaker German Moreno.

Special awards were given to actor Jeffrey Quizon for his role in Gil Portes' "Markova: Comfort Gay," which earned for him an acting citation in the Brussels International Film Festival; director Joel Lamangan for bagging the Sylvie Auzas award for "Deathrow" in the Brussels Film Festival; and director Marilou Diaz-Abaya for winning the Fukuoka prize for filmmaking in Japan.

LIFETIME achievement award is given to actor-director Eddie Garcia (right) by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo during the Cinemanila gala night, as festival founder Tikoy Aguiluz looks on.

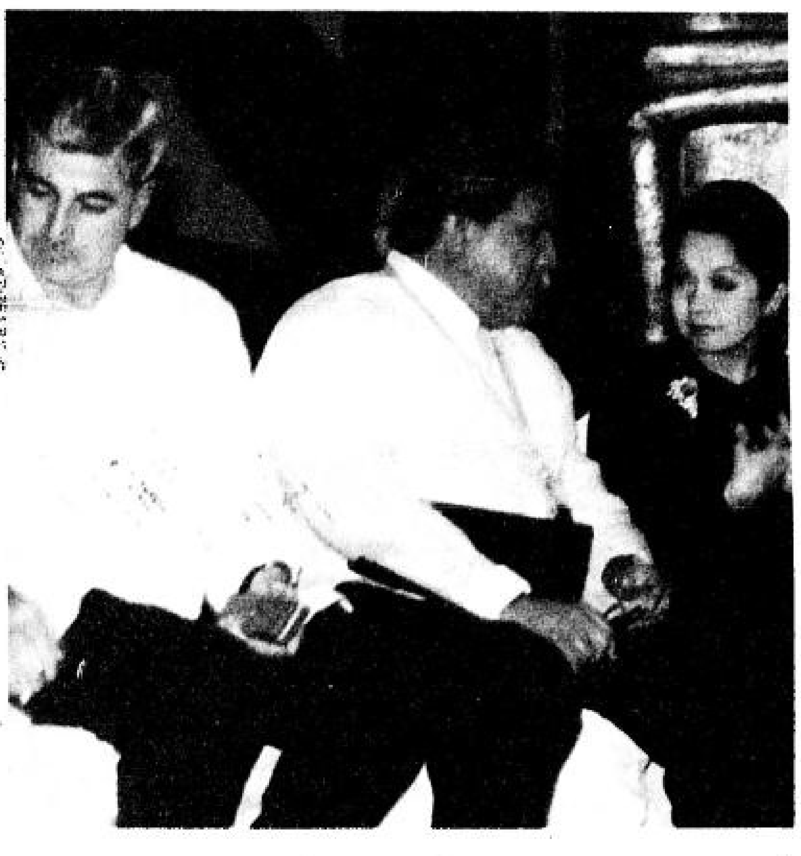
Makati 2nd District Rep. Butz Aquino hosted the program with film critic Jessica Zafra.

Students from the Pamantasan ng Makati carried the flags of the participating countries during the parade of colors.

The foreign guests included French film critics Max Tessier and Jacques Poitrat, German cinematographer Jorg Reitwein, American film critic Nikolas Palevsky, Belgian filmmaker Gerard Corbiau, Israeli film director Dan Wolman.

Also present on opening night were Canadian film critic Mel Tobias, directors Gil Portes and Elwood Perez, Jackie Aquino, Gloria Diaz and boyfriend Mike de Jesus, poet Virgie Moreno, Cecille Guidote-Alvarez, Tourism Secretary Dick Gordon, Rep. Satur Ocampo, and Makati Rep. Teddyboy Locsin and Councilor Rico Puno.

At stake in the festival are the Lino Brocka Award (grand prize), Grand Jury Prize, best actor and best actress in a feature film, the critics prize, best short film, best documentary and the Ishmael Bernal award for best Filipino short film.



MOVIE TALK between Ms Macapagal and Aguiluz, who sits beside businessman and Cinemanila supporter Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala.

ROGER CARPIO

CPD drug unit chief in extortion

BY AGNES E. DONATO

A CENTRAL Police District official was sacked while one of his men is in hot water for allegedly extorting money and illegally detaining four suspected drug dependents in Quezon City.

P/Insp. Lovino Acharon, chief of the CPD Station 1 Drug Enforcement Unit, was relieved of his post after being accused as the mastermind of the extortion plan. He was ordered arrested by assistant prosecutor Menardo Bautista on charges of extortion and arbitrary detention.

Bautista also recommended a P106,000 bail for the temporary liberty of PO2 Ricardo Sibayan, who was arrested during an entrapment operation conducted by the Counter Intelligence Special Unit of the Regional Intelligence and Investigation Division last Dec. 4.

Acharon and Sibayan are facing criminal charges filed by complainant Alfredo Aguila III, 29, of Xavierville Subdivision, Loyola Heights, Quezon City.

Bautista also ordered further investigation on the alleged involvement in the alleged extortion of three other members of the DEU. Facing investigation are PO1 Joey Terrana, PO1 Hector Hernandez, and PO1 Roderick Valencio.

Terrana, who was arrested along with Sabayan, managed to elude charges after he denied knowledge of the crime and claimed that he had only been ordered by Acharon to accept the money from Aguila's family.

Police records showed that Aguila and three of his friends were arrested last Dec. 2 while having a pot session in the house of Raymond Tan on Del Monte Avenue.

After a day in detention, members of the DEU allegedly asked the arrested men for P100,000 for their release.

Aguila's friends reportedly paid a total of P37,000 while the complainant's family was told to negotiate with Acharon.

Instead of negotiating, Aguila's family called up the office of Metro Manila police chief Gen. Edgardo Aglipay and sought his help.

Aglipay then sent a CISU team to conduct an entrapment operation, which led to the arrest of Sibayan and Terrana.

Acharon, Hernandez and Valencio were not present during the raid.

Oil depot users have June 30 deadline

BY JEROME ANING

OIL firms using the Pandacan fuel depot in Manila will only have until June 30, 2002 to cease and relocate their operations after Mayor Lito Atienza yesterday morning signed an ordinance reclassifying the site of the facility.

The ordinance, approved unanimously last month by the city council, converts the 30-hectare depot from an industrial into a commercial site. The law will become effective 15 days after it is published in a major daily.

"The city government is very pleased with this ordinance since it will automatically transform the way of living in the area into a more pleasant one, without any impending danger," Atienza told reporters during the signing ceremony at City Hall.

The mayor said the ordinance would pave the way for the full development of Pandacan into a residential and light commercial zone. The law mandates Atienza to organize an ad hoc committee composed of various City Hall officials to formulate a comprehensive development plan for the area.

The body shall be headed by the mayor and include as members the vice mayor, the chair of the city council's committee on housing, urban development and resettlement, and the heads of the city government's health, public services, planning, urban settlements, business promotion and legal departments.

Atienza said after the June 30 deadline, any oil company that is still maintaining storage tanks, pipelines and fuel distribution center in the area would be facing stiff sanctions from his office.

To give time for the oil companies to move out, the mayor said he would issue a temporary six-month permit to the oil firms operating in the area—Petron, Caltex, Shell, Unioil and Mobil.

The council pushed for the relocation of the depot, fearing the site could become a target of a terrorist attack and endanger the densely populated communities surrounding the facility.

ATIENZA

In one hearing, the heads of the city's police and fire departments admitted they are ill equipped to prevent terrorist attacks on the depot or to fight big fires that can hit the facility.

Dad wants permit for TX taxis

MEGATAXIS and other alternate utility vehicles on Manila streets should be required to register and pay an annual permit to be able to continue their operations, a city councilor said yesterday.

In a proposed ordinance, Councilor Amalia Tolentino of the 4th district said drivers and operators of FX taxis and AUVs should register and pay P200 each year to the city treasurer's office.

Tolentino said the mayor's office would issue a sticker that should be conspicuously displayed on the vehicle.

Traffic enforcers of the city police and the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority would be tasked to apprehend AUVs without stickers and fine their drivers P300.

Tolentino said AUVs are constant violators of traffic laws and add to the worsening traffic problem. She said many AUV drivers do not load and unload passengers at designated stops, while others indiscriminately set up temporary terminals and parking areas. *Jerome Aning*

Protests vs rights abuses

By Agnes E. Donato

THE HUMAN rights group Karapatan yesterday announced its plan to hold a two-day protest against the rising number of human rights violations and alleged military abuses to commemorate the International Human Rights Day on Dec. 10.

Two separate mass actions will kick off on Dec. 9 in San Pablo City and Antipolo City, and will culminate in a nationwide protest on Dec. 10, coinciding with the Economic Summit in Manila.

Nancy Rada, spokesperson of Task Force Tanggol Karapatan, said the protest will be "a show of strong resistance against the repressive and militarist agenda of the Arroyo administration, and the injustices that the victims of human rights violations are experiencing."

She claimed that during President Macapagal's 11 months in office, at least 160 cases of human rights violation have been recorded in the Southern Tagalog region alone.

Most of these cases, about 50, involved warrantless arrests. Other types of human rights violations included abductions and disappearances, hamletting and killing.

"The high number of human rights violations in the region is quite alarming," Rada observed, attributing the violations to the alleged massive deployment of the military.

At present, about 86 companies of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, Philippine National Police and para-military forces are deployed in the Southern Tagalog under the banner of Task Force Banahaw.

Rada also lamented the displacement of more and more families from their homes and communities because of the military operations in their area.

Rada cited how, last month, several Mangyan families from Oriental Mindoro sought refuge in Metro Manila because they feared they would be mistaken for sympathizers of the communist New People's Army in their community.

"We cannot allow such gross disrespect for human rights," Rada said. "That's why we are going to the streets to protest against the ongoing militarization in the Southern Tagalog."

She also warned of more protests "until we get a concrete action from (the government) to pull out the military in the region and give justice to the victims of human rights violations." *With Trecetine Cabigas and Leslee Ann Monilla*

Lantern contest and festival in Manila

A LANTERN parade called "Liwanag ng Kaginhawaan sa Parulan" will be held on Monday at the Bonifacio Shrine beside the Manila city hall as part of the city's calendar of events for Christmas.

Various barangays in the city will participate in the parade.

"This is one way to get our barangays to help spread good cheer among Manileños this Christmas season, despite the difficult economic conditions that the country is currently experiencing," said Manila Mayor Lito Atienza.

Registration of entries on Dec. 10 will be from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., judging will be from 3 to 5:30 p.m., and the awarding of winning entries will be from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

Each entry should have a minimum diameter of one yard or three feet, must be lighted with a 220 volt power source, made of recycled materials and must have provisions for hanging on a pole for the rest of the Christmas season, and must be in the shape of a star.

The winning entry will be awarded a P75,000 cash prize and a trophy, second place will receive P50,000 and a trophy, third place will get P25,000 and a trophy. Three consolation prizes of P10,000 each will also be given to the next three entries.

The board of judges is composed of National Commission for Culture and Arts Executive Director Maria Fina C. Yonzon as chair, and architect Deogracias Tablan, Manila Urban Settlements head, Mr. Isabelo Magbitang, supervisor in chief of the Music and Arts Division of the P. Gomez Elementary School, Prof. Jaime Delos Santos, assistant dean of the College of Fine Arts and Design of the University of Sto. Tomas, Mr. Al Perez, 1989 Manila Patnubay ng Sining at Kalinangan awardee for painting, Mr. Raul Isidro, 1997 Manila Patnubay ng Sining at Kalinangan awardee for painting and Mr. Rosario Bitanga, 2001 Manila Patnubay ng Sining at Kalinangan awardee for painting, as members.

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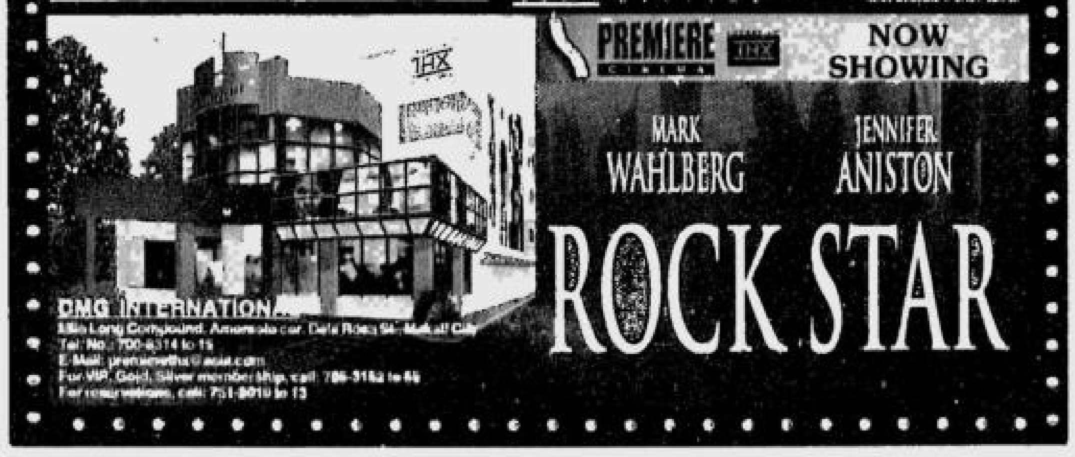

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ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	ROCKSTAR
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	OTHER SIDE OF THE LAW
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	DREAM GIRL
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
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EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
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ODEON	MUSKETEER
ODEON-2	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
ROBEN	TIKIM
TANDEM-1	SEX MEDUSA
TANDEM-2	SEX EDUCATION
TIMES	PUKYUTAN / STORY OF US
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ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	TIKIM
REMAR	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
REMAR-2	TIKIM
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
B	TIKIM
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79/633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	MONSTERS, INC.
CINEMA-2	HARRY POTTER
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	KUMAKASA PUMUPUTOK
CINEMA-2	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
CINEMA-3	HUWAG KANG KIKIBO
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	SERENDIPITY
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	MONSTER, INC.
CINEMA-6	OTHER SIDE OF THE LAW
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CINEMA-8	IRON LADIES
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CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	ROCKSTAR
CINEMA-12	MUSKETEER
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CINEMA-15	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
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CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
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UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PIÑAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
CINEMA-2	THE OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
CINEMA-4	ALAMID

Land without poisons

(From page A27)

KMP said that "Monsanto (and the other agrochemical TNCs) justify genetically engineering seeds and other products as their solution to a world allegedly going hungry... (but) farmers all over the world (have known) . . . that (these TNCs') monopoly over seeds and other agricultural products contributes to the poverty that (farmers and other sectors) are experiencing. The real causes of hunger are poverty, inequality and lack of land and food."

Pesticides

Malaysia's Jennifer Mourin, member of the Pesticide Action Network Asia Pacific (PAN-AP), explained during the launching (which also included delegates from Japan, Thailand, and Belgium) that the Bacillus thurigiensis (Bt), an aerobic bacterium used ordinarily by farmers to control pests, has been injected into the corn itself. Supposedly, this would make the crop resistant, and therefore, would have no need for pesticide or herbicide. However, it is anticipated that continuous use of this genetically engineered crop will soon make pests resistant to this crop, so that there will be a need to use external pesticide again - and specifically, one that is produced by the same company.

The World Health Organization in 1995 estimated that some 3,000,000 cases of pesticide poisoning, including 220,000 deaths, are reported every year.

"If they really seek to address hunger," Mourin asked, "why then are these crops not fortified with iron or Vitamin A and other nutrients? Actually, most of these are genetically engineered only for a single trait - tolerance to pesticide."

Mourin cites other consequences of increased pesticide use as required by GMOs: physical illnesses and deformities, soil poisoning which destroys the very environment and endangers food security, and the takeover of lands by the companies.

Double standard

Mourin said that in 1999, food companies in the UK, such as Cadbury and Unilever, announced that they would not have foods containing GMOs in the supermarkets. She wrote to ask these companies if this was their global policy and they said it applied only to Europe while the altered products would be dumped on Malaysia, she bewailed.

This sounds so much like the case of incinerators. While the countries in the developed world are now phasing out incinerators, their manufacturers from these same countries and the local partners here are strongly espousing that waste, which is a precious resource if recycled or composted, must instead be burned in the obsolete incinerators that would be dumped here.

(The author may be reached at bangon_kalikasan @skyinet.net.)

Thermoselect: It's gasification, not incineration

(From page A27)

Goodbye, landfills

By turning garbage into UHoGG, we harness energy and local coal with the least pollutants. So, goodbye, landfills. Welcome UHoGG.

For starters, we will need an oxygen-free furnace whose air has been sucked out. Imagine that coal or garbage is continuously fed into our furnace at a presumed rate.

To prime our furnace, we first apply start-up heat from an external source, like LPG. As the coal or garbage heats up inside the furnace, UHoGG is released and flows into a filter for cleaning. A small fraction of filtered UHoGG is then looped back to the exterior walls of the furnace to replace the LPG, becoming the furnace's sole and continuous source of heat. The rest of the UHoGG may be stored or directly fed into an engine.

It is common knowledge in thermodynamics that the hotter the mixture of fuel and air, the more efficient an engine becomes. That's why in some car engines, air is made to flow through hot exhaust tubes to pickup heat before entering the air filter. Like pandesal, which tastes best while still hot and fresh from the oven, UHoGG is best when immediately fed into a running engine coupled to an electricity generator.

Higher technology

Now comes Thermoselect, a higher technology that manufactures UHoGG. Thermoselect's vertical gasifier furnace operates at very high temperatures: from 1200 degrees centigrade near the top of the furnace to 2000+ near the bottom. All metals and inorganic materials that are not gasifiable settle at the bottom and melt. But everything gasifiable turns to UHoGG at the upper portion of the furnace. Most materials, including glass, steel, iron, nickel, aluminum, copper, ash, melt below 1600 degrees centigrade.

Thanks to advances in material science, there are today stronger and high-temperature resistant materials like corundum-based ceramics, which is Thermoselect's chosen material for its furnaces. UHoGG no longer provides furnace heating looped back from the furnace's output. Instead, high temperatures are attained by induction of the electricity for which it is looped back from the generator.

How it works

This is how a thermoselect furnace works: Take a common hospital waste as the syringe. The syringe needle, which is made of metal, will melt. Its rubber and plastic parts, together with whatever blood and medicine that have been left in it, will gasify into UHoGG.

UHoGG is shock-cooled to handling temperature as it leaves the furnace to deprive undesirable molecules of sufficient time to form. Though a series of filters, UHoGG is stripped of sulfur and other impurities. Acids and volatile heavy metals are captured, treated and recovered in-plant. The melt at the bottom of the furnace flows into another container where it is granted sufficient time to separate into minerals and pure metals before being quenched (an old term used in metallurgy which also means shock-cooled) into separate solids of sand-like granules and metal pellets. A slower cooling rate will not allow the granules and pellets to stay apart.

Another advantage of thermoselect is that nothing that comes out of a thermoselect plant is polluting or useless. The thermoselect system includes a compactor, which compresses input garbage to a fifth of its original volume, a degasifier, which removes moisture from the garbage, a closed-loop water treatment facility for shock-cooling, quenching, and maintaining the furnace within the desired operating temperatures. Another subsystem manufactures and injects pure oxygen into the melt at the lower portion of the furnace to gasify and remove whatever carbon was trapped there.

A thermoselect plant is computer controlled. Each parameter and every step in the process are monitored and adjusted automatically and electronically to ensure peak performance 365.25 days a year.

Through thermoselect, garbage is transformed into UHoGG, another gaseous fuel very much like natural gas. It has elevated gasification technology to very high temperatures at which all garbage, except nuclear waste, can be transformed into useful energy and re-useable materials. It has also eliminated ashes in the process, making landfills unnecessary.

UHoGG lang ang matitira (Only UHoGG will remain)! Drippp..

(The author finished engineering at UP Diliman and did gasification experiments as an undergrad. He has a master's degree in Materials Science from the University of Leeds, England and was a visiting scientist at the Energy Lab of the Massachusetts

Institute of Technology in the US. He has taught power plants and computer science at De La Salle University and has been involved in the power projects of Globe Paper Mills and Container Corp.

He is a member of the Filipino Inventors Society.)

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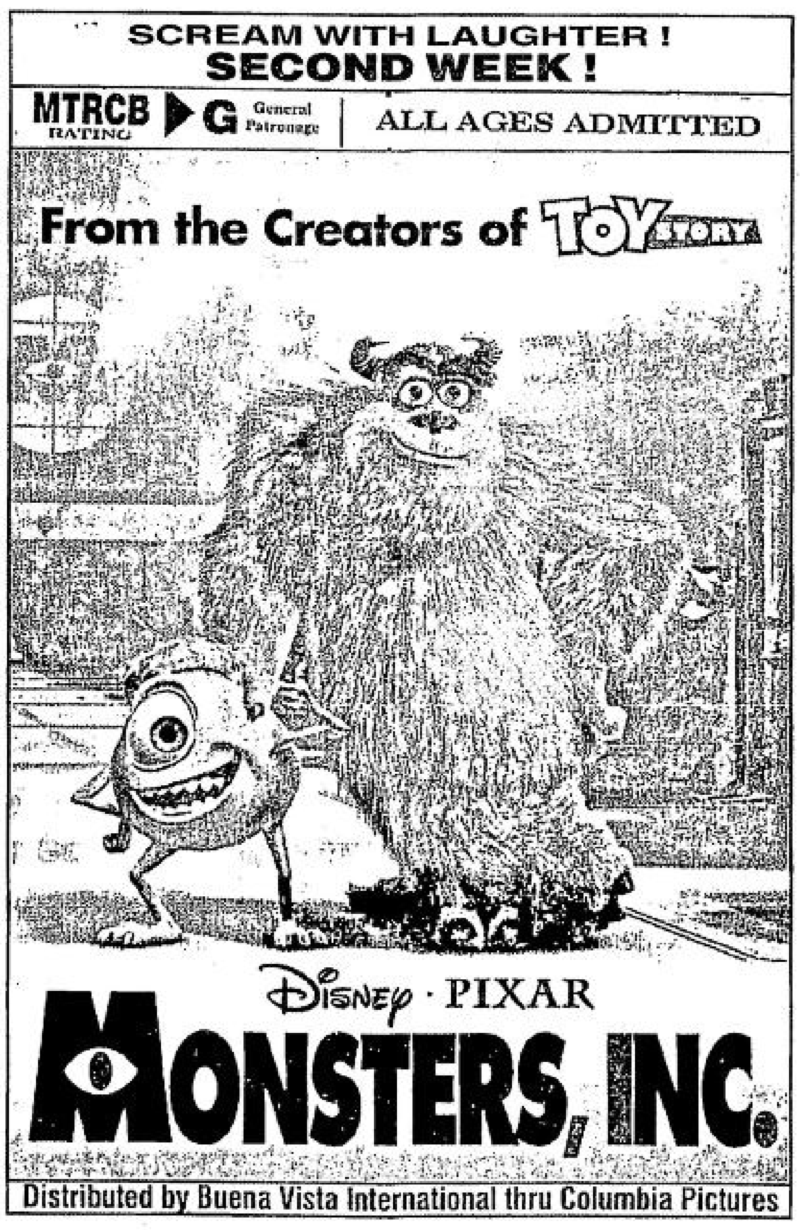
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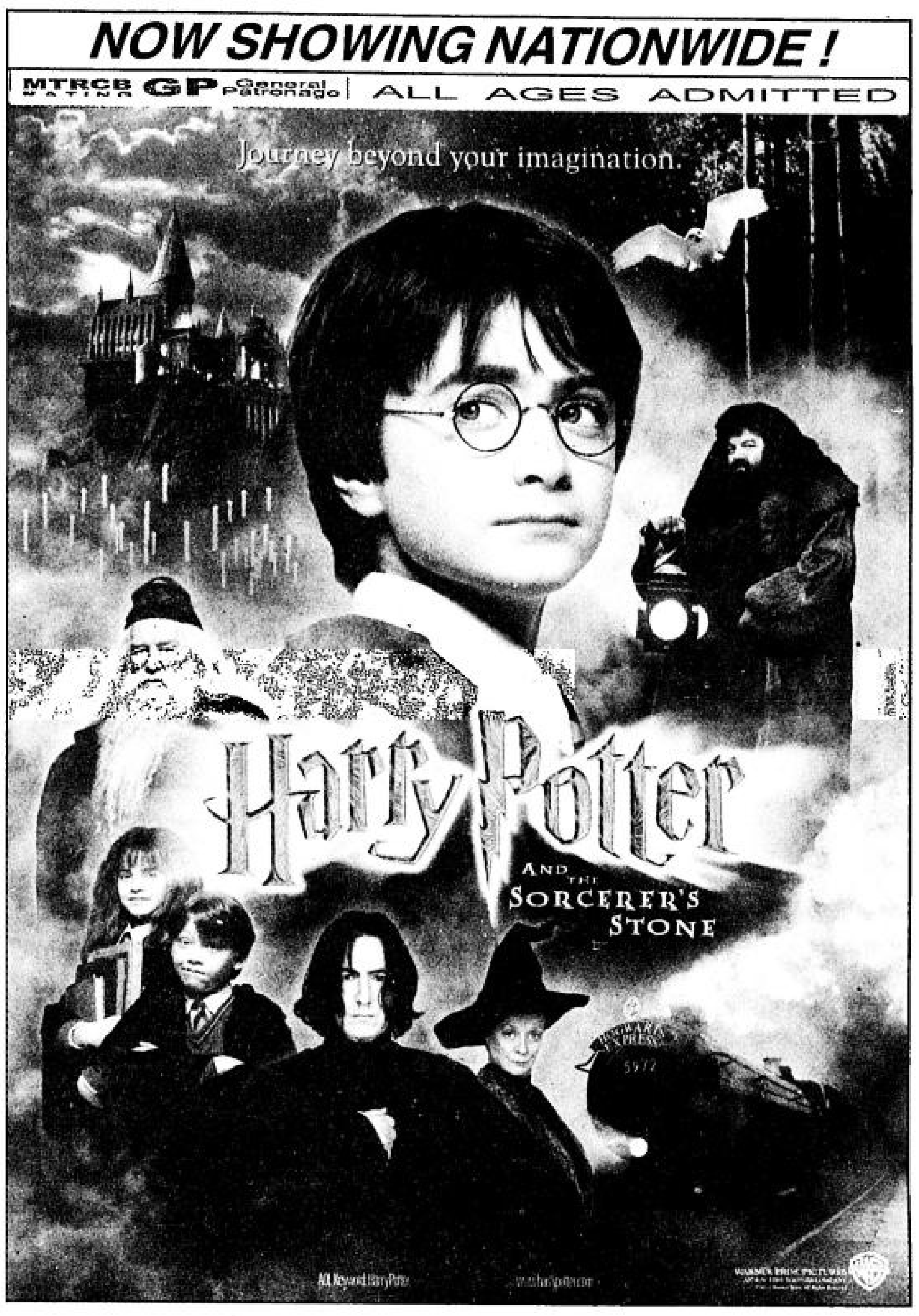
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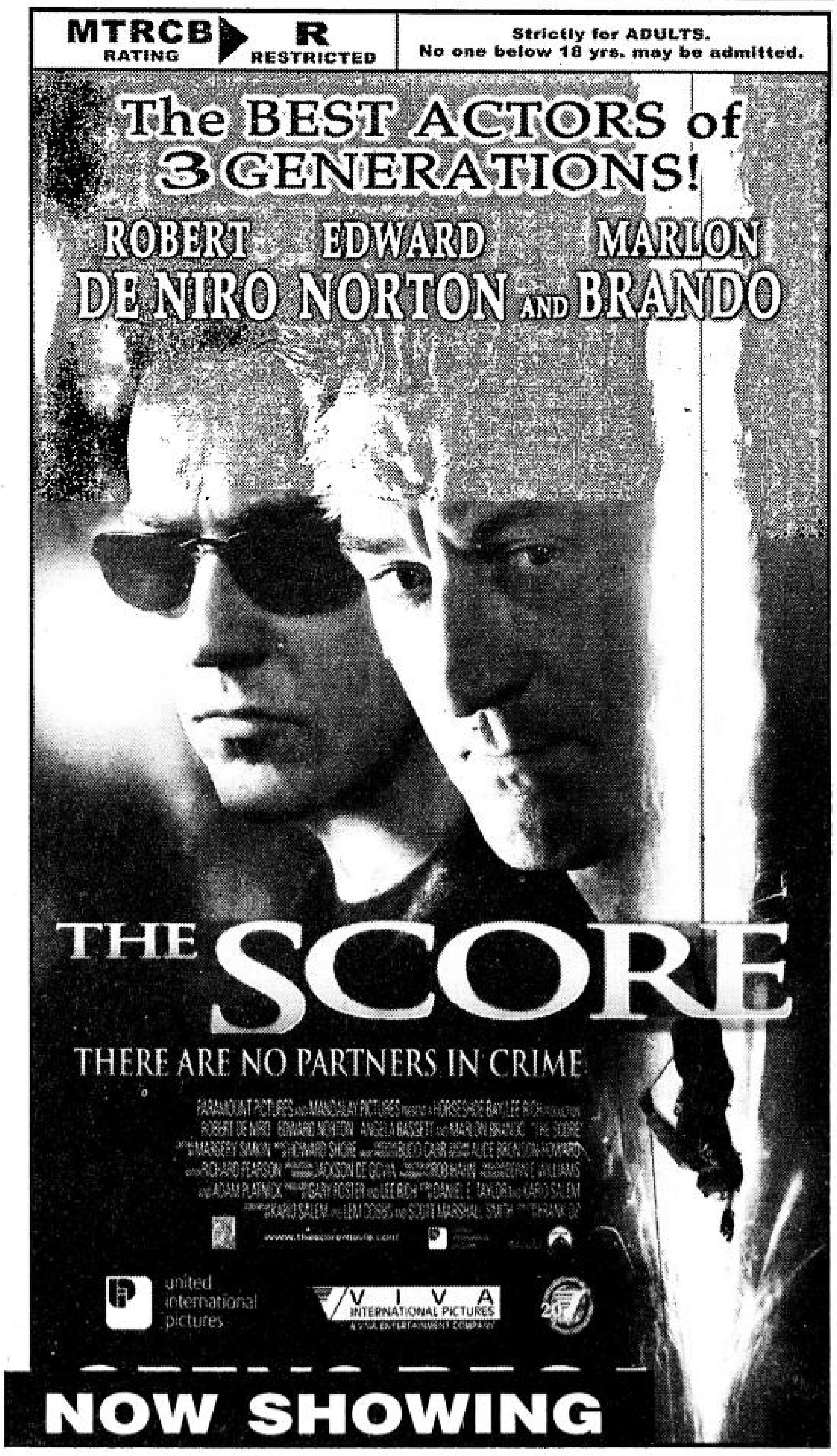
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BUSINESS

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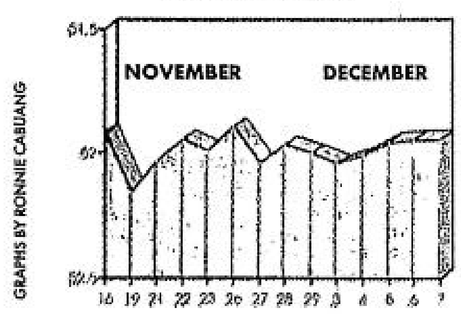
Pagcor drops bond float, eyes ₱18-B loan

INDICATORS

PESO - DOLLAR



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By CLARISSA S. BATINO

THE STATE-RUN Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. is dropping a plan to issue P15 billion worth of bonds and will instead borrow as much as P18 billion from National Development Co., the investment arm of the Department of Trade and Industry.

Rafael Francisco, Pagcor's chief of staff for operations, said the gaming firm was now convinced that borrowing from NDC would be cheaper than directly issuing bonds for the company.

"If we were to borrow from NDC, the interest rate would be about 4 percent cheaper. It would result in significant savings for Pagcor. I think we have more or less decided that the NDC borrowing is preferable," Francisco said in an interview.

Although the plan to issue bonds was still an option, the Pagcor official said borrowing from NDC would be more attractive.

Despite the change in plans, Francisco said the gaming firm could still raise the money this year.

The funds would be used by Pagcor to buy a 60-hectare property from the Philippine Estates Authority. The PEA will, in turn, remit at least P10 billion in dividends to the national government to help it plug a P145-billion budget deficit this year.

Francisco explained that the plan was for NDC to issue bonds and lend the proceeds to the gaming firm. An industry source said the investment firm would like to issue as much as P18 billion worth of bonds.

Another source from the banking industry said the three underwriters for the Pagcor bond issue would be tapped to handle the NDC bond float. These are Land Bank of the Philippines, Development Bank of the Philippines and First Metro Investment Corp.

Francisco explained that an NDC bond issue would be cheaper since it has tax incentives which could be applied to its borrowings unlike Pagcor, which has no access to such tax breaks.

PAGCOR/ B4

Nestlé averts labor strike

By GIL C. CABACUNGAN JR.

SWISS food giant Nestlé has been able to avert a strike in its Cabuyao, Laguna, plant which could have crippled its regional production of infant formula due to timely government intervention.

Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas II said the labor situation in Nestlé has now stabilized, following the Department of Labor and Employment's assumption of jurisdiction on the labor row. "Nestlé's operations are heading back to normal and we hope that management and labor finally settle their dispute soon," Roxas said. "We applaud the DOLE'S efforts in averting the strike."

The government swiftly responded to Nestlé management's plea to avoid a repeat of the forced shutdown of the assembly plants of Toyota Motor Philippines Inc. and Nissan Motors Philippines Inc. in March and October, respectively, this year.

Toyota and Nissan had to stop operations for weeks after the government did not act fast enough to prevent their unions from going on strike. Toyota and Nissan's majority owner, Yulon Motor Co. Ltd. of Taiwan, have threatened to pull out their assembly operations and sell units fully assembled from overseas. They eventually reopened their plants but not after incurring millions of pesos in losses.

Nestlé had earlier warned the Macapagal administration that it would defer a P3-billion expansion program in the Philippines because of an impending labor strike at its Laguna factory.

The P3-billion capital outlay is part of Nestlé's long-term plan of making the country its production center for infant formula milk in the region once the Asean enforces its free trading block arrangement in 2003. Nestlé plans to sell its infant formula products from the Philippines to Thailand, Malaysia, Vietnam and Singapore.

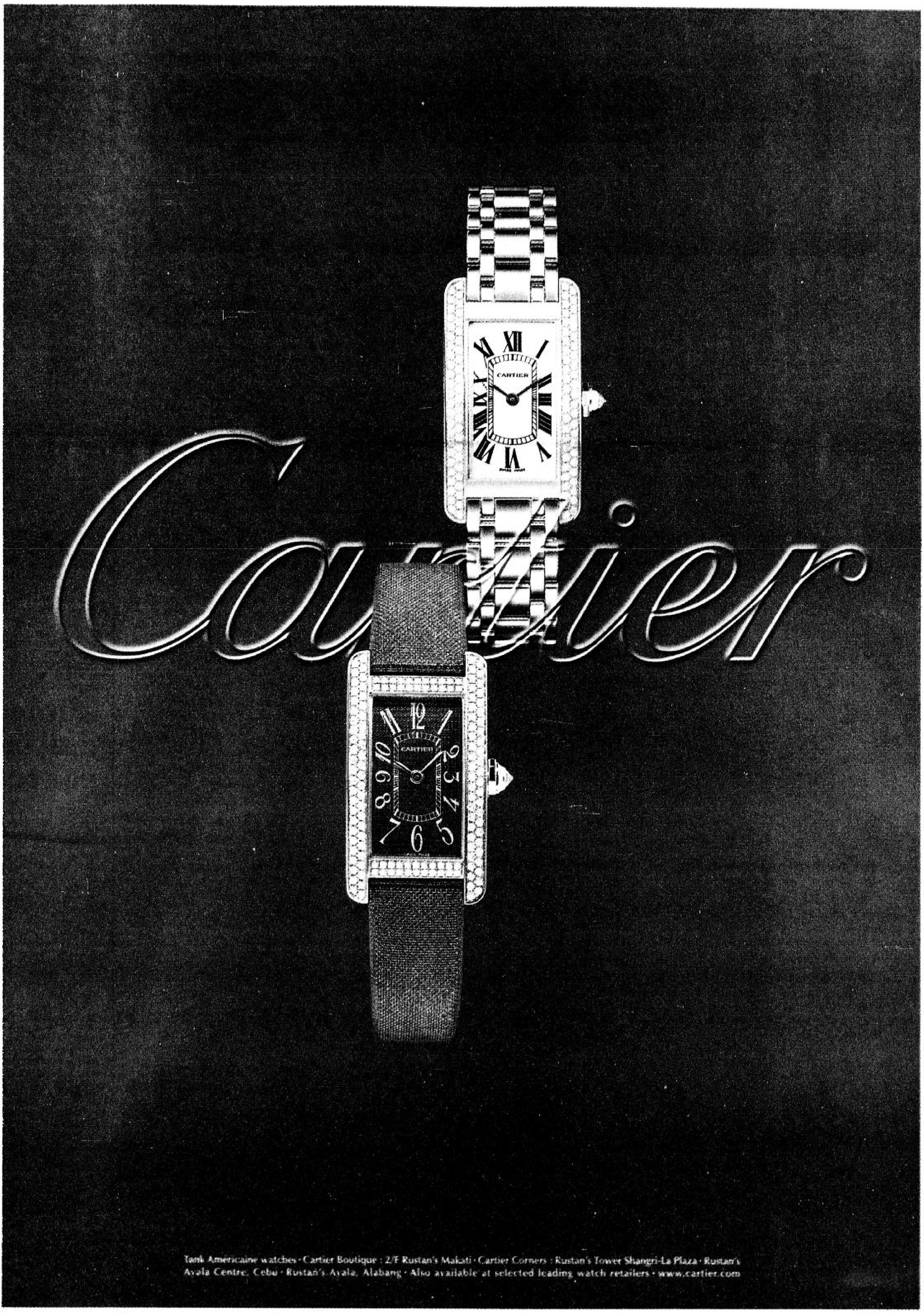
Stocks down as investors take profits

SHARES fell back yesterday after some early gains as investors moved to take profits following the market's recent run-up, traders said.

The decision of the central bank on Thursday to trim overnight rates by 25 basis points and to cut banks' liquidity reserve requirements while welcomed, was not enough to convince investors to drive the market higher, they said.

"I think it (the market) has become a little overbought . . . it was

STOCKS/ B4



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'BREATHING ROOM'

Cut in BSP rate, bank reserve seen helping ailing companies

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE MONETARY Board's twin moves to cut key interest rates and lower liquidity reserves are expected to provide more "breathing room" to distressed companies struggling to cope with weak demand.

Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel Roxas II said that companies that were hit hard could now have more "breathing room" because their interest costs would go down with the recent rate cuts.

The Monetary Board slashed overnight borrowing and lending rates to 8 percent and 10.25 percent from 8.25 percent and 10.75 percent. This is a six-year low for overnight rates.

Roxas said the lower interest expenses would mean more money for ailing firms to use in other aspects of their operations that they have scrimped on in the past months.

Interest rates are expected to fall even further with the Monetary Board's decision to reduce the liquidity reserve requirement on bank deposits and deposit substitutes/liabilities, common trust funds and trust and other fiduciary liabilities (Tofa) from 11 percent to 9 percent.

This would bring down the total reserve requirement from 20 percent to 18 percent, which monetary authorities estimated would free up P26 billion funds into the market.

Roxas reckoned that this round of rate and reserve cuts would lead to more lending by banks and give companies access to cheaper money to help them weather the crisis. He said that this showed the government's commitment to spark confidence in the economy.

But while interest rates have been hovering at low levels, loan demand has remained tepid largely due to the prudent lending requirements imposed by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

The Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry has already appealed for more leniency in lending.

MRT EXTENSION LINE CONTRACT

Transportation Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez (second from right) and Metro Rail Transit Corp. chair and CEO Robert John Sobrepeña (second from left) sign the supplemental agreement on the Build-Transfer scheme for MRTC to construct the second phase of the 5.5-km MRT-3 project. Once the MRT is connected to the LRT at Monumento, the extension line will provide the metropolitan area its first true commuter railway loop. Witnessing the signing are (from left): Paul Daza, MRTC spokesperson; Pio P. Marasigan Jr., MRTC assistant vice president; Rommel Gavieta, MRTC vice president for project investment risk management; Frederick Parayno, MRTC project manager; DOTC-MRT general manager Mario Miranda, and DOTC Undersecretary Willie Trinidad.

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Privatization of Napocor seen on track

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE POWER Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. is all set to assume National Power Corp.'s disposable assets before the end of the month, Energy Secretary Vicente Perez said.

"The transfer of assets to PSALM would pave the way for the privatization of Napocor," Perez noted.

The secretary added that the government was sticking to its schedule for the power firm's privatization and that pre-marketing efforts to sell the assets were under way.

Created under the Electric Power Industry Reform Act, PSALM would assume all of Napocor's financial obligations as of end-2000 and take over all of its disposable assets.

The law also mandates that PSALM should take over Napocor's assets and assume its obligations by Dec. 26.

According to Napocor data, its total assets as of end-2000 amounted to P989.7 billion while its total long-term debts were pegged at P292 billion.

Recently, PSALM created four preliminary new groupings for National Power Corp.'s power plants in preparation for their privatization next year.

PSALM president Edgardo del Fonso said in an earlier interview they were looking at four initial generation company or genco clusters, which would group the plants as follows:

- Luzon Calaca genco covering 1,355 mw of generating capacity: Calaca coal plant in Batangas (600 mw); Pinamucan (105 mw) and Malaya thermal plants in Rizal (650 mw).
- Luzon Masinloc genco: Masinloc coal plant in Zambales (600 mw).
- Luzon Angat genco with an aggregate capacity of 532 mw: Angat hydro (245 mw); Pantabangan hydro (100 mw); Masiway hydro (12 mw); Binga hydro (100 mw) and Ambuklao hydro (75 mw).
- Luzon Magat genco with a 382-mw total capacity: Magat hydro (360 mw) and Benguet hydro (22 mw).

Del Fonso added that PSALM was considering to sell individually Napocor's geothermal plants such as the 150-mw Bacman; the 193-mw Palinpinon plant; the 685-mw Tiwi-MakBan and the 113-mw Tongonan plants.

He added that they were also looking into the possibility of selling 13 small hydro plants and generators running on diesel and bunker fuel.

"The final groupings will reflect the implementing rules of the power reform bill, the wholesale electricity spot market rules, transmission charges and the investors' feedback," Del Fonso explained.

Mirant signs deal on rural power project

MIRANT Philippines Corp., through its social development arm Mirant Philippines Foundation, has signed with the Department of Energy and representatives of 45 electric cooperatives a memorandum of agreement to signal the start of the electrification of 1,000 unenergized barangays in Luzon and some parts of Mindanao.

The initiative, dubbed "1-Billion-Peso Power to the Barrios Program," is aimed at bringing the benefits of electricity to the far-flung rural communities and isolated islands in the country to spur economic activities and improve the quality of life of people living in the identified areas.

Mirant has allocated P1 billion to finance this program—the first and largest corporate social responsibility program of its kind from a private corporation.

The government, having identified poverty as a major barrier to development, has doubled its efforts to curb the rampant poverty that afflicts a large portion of the Filipino population.

With limited resources and personnel, the government has increasingly turned to the private sector for assistance, specially in the provision of the basic infrastructure (transportation, water, electricity and telecommunications) necessary to spur growth and help the Philippines become more globally competitive.

Mirant's initiative is in support of the energy department's O'Ilaw Program that aims to increase the level of electrification in the country by 100 percent by the year 2006.

The signing ceremony was attended by Energy Secretary Vincent Perez Jr., NEA administrator Fr. Francisco de Silva, Mirant Philippines president Edgardo Bautista, and representatives of 45 electric cooperatives.

Mirant Philippines, a wholly owned subsidiary of Atlanta-based Mirant Corp., is the largest private producer of electricity in the country, owning more than 2,300 mw of installed generating capacity. It owns and operates the 1,218-mw Sual Power Station in Pangasinan, the 735-mw Pagbilao Power Station in Quezon, the 210-mw Navotas I and the 100-mw Navotas II power stations in Metro Manila and the 15 mw SDC Power Station in San Ildefonso, Bulacan. Mirant also owns a stake in the soon-to-be operational natural gas-fired 1,200-mw Ilijan Power Plant.

Keppel Land to increase stake in local subsidiary

By Doris C. Dumlao

SINGAPOREAN property giant Keppel Land Ltd. is set to increase its stake in local unit Keppel Philippines Properties Inc. (KPPI) through the conversion of P542.68 million worth of advances into equity.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, KPPI spokesperson Melva Valdez said the company's board of directors had approved the conversion of advances to deposit for future subscription in the company.

Valdez did not say how much in additional stake Keppel Land, which currently has a 49-percent stake in KPPI, would get in exchange for the converted advances.

Keppel Land is the property arm of the Keppel Group, one of Singapore's largest conglomerates with core businesses in banking and financial services, property investment, development and management, telecommunications and logistics, as well as offshore, energy and engineering, and marine services.

It is one of the largest property groups listed on the Singapore Exchange Securities Trading Ltd. It has a widely diversified portfolio in other Asian countries such as Malaysia, Indonesia, China, Hong Kong, Vietnam, Thailand, Myanmar, Philippines and Australia.

In the Philippines, Keppel Land is the joint venture partner of the SM group in a new high-end retail center, The Podium in Ortigas center.

Its local property unit, KPPI, was originally incorporated as Cebu Shipping and Engineering Works Inc. in 1968. From shipyard repair and ship-building, it shifted to real estate development, focusing on the middle-income housing portfolio and a high-rise structure and office center.

KPPI is Keppel Land's vehicle for its expansion plans in the Philippines. Through wholly-owned unit Swansville Investment, it is focusing on a middle-income township or residential development in San Jose Del Monte in a joint venture with Araneta Properties Inc.

The deal gave Keppel Land the long-term option to buy and develop the latter's 600-hectare land parcel in San Jose Del Monte, north of Quezon City, Manila.

Equitable PCI debt to BSP down to P2B

By Clarissa S. Batino

EQUITABLE PCI Bank, the country's fourth largest lender, may be able to settle in full its remaining debt to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas this year after paying the central bank another P3 billion yesterday.

A senior BSP official said Equitable PCI's obligation to the BSP as of yesterday was already down to P2 billion from the original amount of P30 billion. The bank ran to the BSP for a P30-billion emergency loan late last year and early this year when it experienced heavy withdrawals. The banks started servicing the BSP loan in June this year.

Equitable PCI officials said the bank would be able to settle in full its obligations to the central bank in the next few weeks or early next year.

The maturity of the remaining loan, which ended on Nov. 27, was extended by the BSP to March 31, 2002.

"The bank plans to settle its obligations early next year but it may be able to do it earlier," said BSP Deputy Governor Alberto Reyes in an earlier interview.

Reyes said Equitable PCI's ability to recover the bulk of the deposits it lost last year allowed the bank to substantially reduce its BSP loan. Equitable PCI has so far settled P28 billion of its total debt.

Reyes said the bank was able to realize significant earnings from its dollar remittance business particularly during the Christmas season, when remittances usually peak.

The local lender wanted to retire its obligations to the BSP as soon as possible because the loan has been carrying an interest charge equivalent to treasury bill rates plus three percentage points or about 15 percent at the time the loan was obtained.

Equitable PCI reported a net income of P113.7 million in the first nine months of the year. Although still positive, the current level was only 10 percent of its P1.178 billion net earnings during the same period last year.

The banks used to be the country's third largest bank in terms of assets but it dropped to the fourth place this year with assets amounting to only P241 billion as of the third quarter, or 9.3 percent lower than its year ago level of P265.66 billion.

Compared with the second quarter figure, however, the bank's asset base improved by about 2 percent from P236.25 billion.

As of the third quarter, Equitable PCI's deposit base of P135.62 billion was 19.2 percent lower than the year-ago level of P167.82 billion. However, the deposit base had improved by 2.29 percent from P132.58 billion in the second quarter.

INTERPORT RESOURCES CORPORATION

NOTICE OF POSTPONEMENT OF STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING

The annual stockholders' meeting of Interport Resources Corporation on December 10, 2001, 10:00 a.m. at the Metropolitan Club, Amapola Street, Makati City, has been reset to February 28, 2002 at 10:00 a.m., at the same venue.

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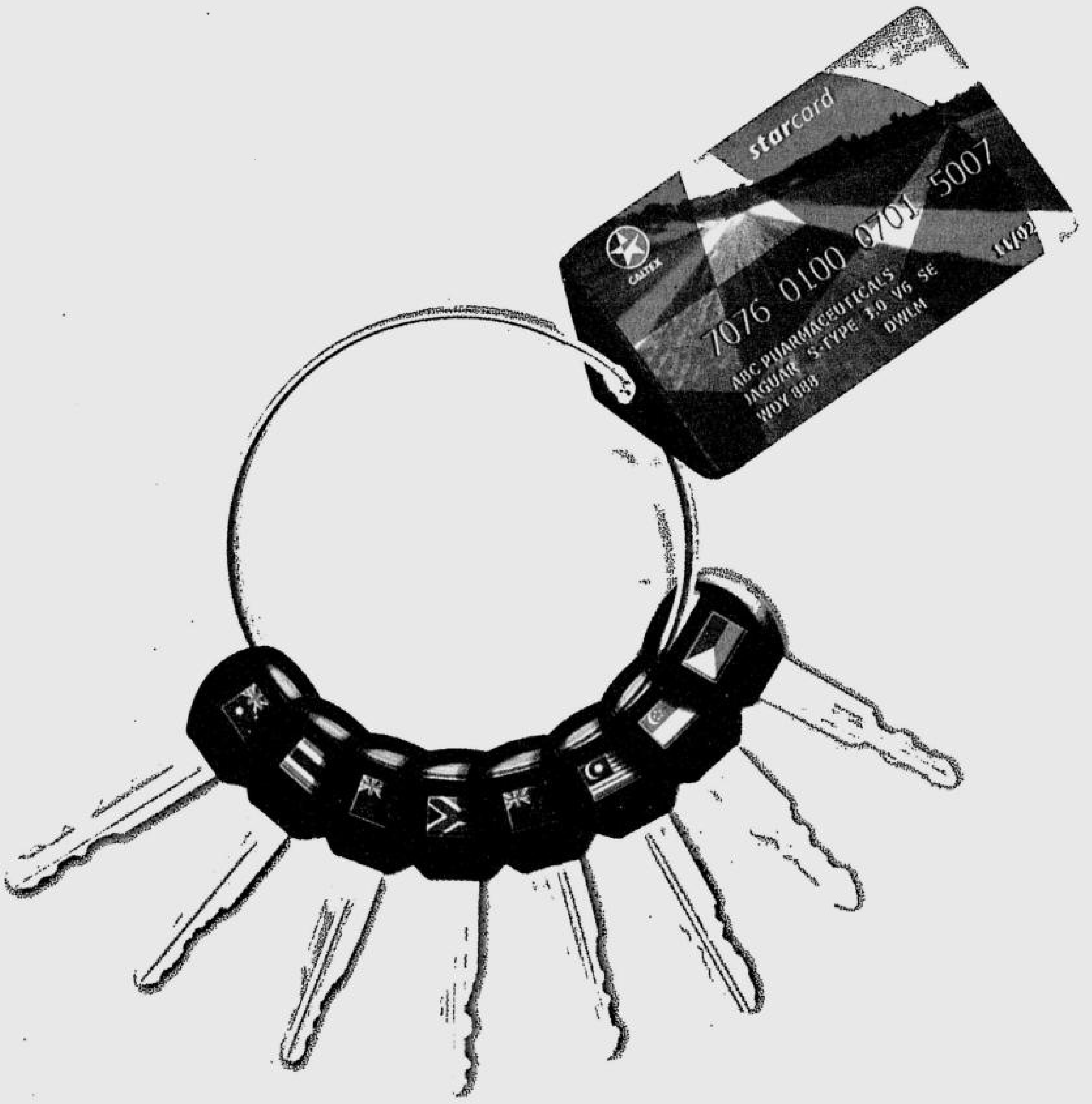

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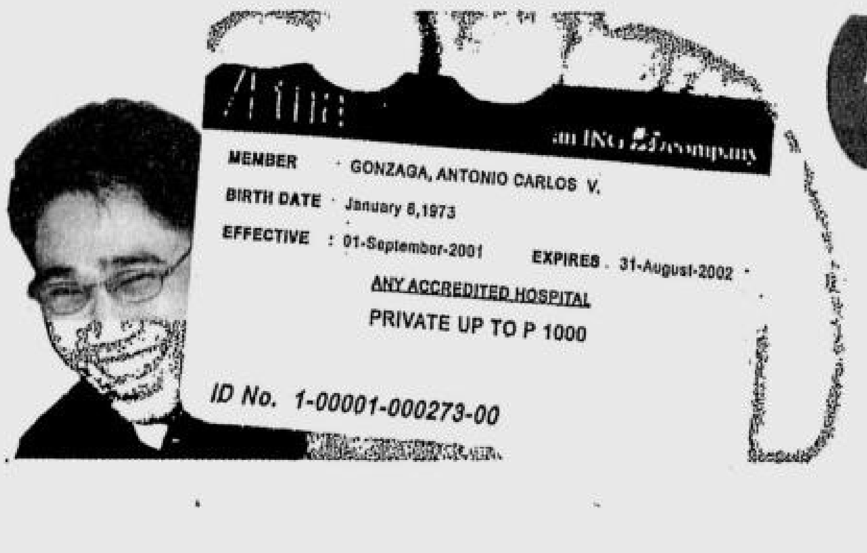

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NFHF builds its vision anew

With a vision "To be the formidable catalyst in promoting competitiveness, sustained growth and protection among its members", NFHF is now all set for the challenge. Members who attended the seminar at Lipa City, Batangas are: Front row, (L-R) Rose Cenaro, Dan Javellana, Vel Religioso, Prof. Edith Bayoneta, Miling Robles, Dolly Cube, Miguelito Hizon, Dr. Charles Ong, Liezl Dycaico, Neph De Jesus, Francis Wong and Dr. Nap Quintos. Back Row, (L-R) Rene Eleria, Santy Tan, Ramon Lim, Durian Tan, Gabby Uy, Oscar Madulid, Johnson Dycaico and Allan San Juan.

"To be the backbone of the hog industry as it enhances the opportunities for business growth and viability towards the assurance of the country's food security and livelihood programs."

This is the mission statement as written by the officer of the National Federation of Hog Farmers, Inc. (NFHF) in their successful seminar last November 22-24 at Lipa City, Batangas.

Having been recently inducted into office by Pres. Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, the new officers of NFHF, an umbrella organization covering various associations of hog farmers all over the Philippines, are all set in overhauling the federation. By conducting leadership seminars such as the recently concluded "Strategic Planning Workshop for the Hog Farmer Leader", the officers were able to create a new vision, a revitalized mission statement and core values, a major development towards their resolve to rebuild the groundwork of the federation.

The long-standing legal battles of hog farmers were some of the crucial issues raised in the said seminar. Among these are the restructuring of tariff measures on ingredients used in the production of hog feeds such as corn and wheat and the rampant smuggling of meat products. "Unlike hog raisers and producers from our Asian neighbors such as Korea, they are enjoying zero-tariff rates on basic feed ingredients, here we are taxed three to four times higher. This is crippling our very own hog industry", laments Mr. Renato Eleria, NFHF Vice Chairman.

Eleria also added that the uncontrollable spread of meat smuggling in the country is also adversely affecting commercial and backyard hog raisers. "Smuggled meat products are sold cheaper than the locally produced ones since they don't pay duties or taxes. The true effect of smuggling is, foreign producers and farmers are the ones getting the best of our own market. This practice impedes us from becoming a major player in the global competition".

NFHF Treasurer Johnson Dycaico warned that should this anomalous practice persist, at least 70% of hog farmers are likely to lose livelihood. "Hog raising is a major source of livelihood among communities in the rural areas who may happen to be even relatives of the smugglers who don't know that they are robbing their own relatives of their livelihood. Smuggling will cost them their very source of sustenance."

The federation is also pushing for the extension of Republic Act 8435 or the "Agricultural & Fisheries Modernization Act of 1997" (AFMA) which prescribes adequate, focused and rational delivery of necessary support services and appropriating funds for the modernization of the agriculture and fisheries sectors in the country. According to Mr. Francis Wong, NFHF Corporate Secretary, the federation is fast-tracking on the approval of the AFMA extension beyond 2002. "We hope to secure its approval as soon as possible so we could ensure our hog farmers of a 'safety net' and continuous government assistance from one administration to another", Wong said. He also added that AFMA guarantees protection against foreign producers. "AFMA is set to provide our local players a fair playing field where they can compete in the global economy."

The officers, on the other hand, expressed confidence in the expertise of hog farmers in the country. "Our advanced method in hog technology has in fact attracted a lot of foreigners to come here and learn about proper management of hog farms", said Mr. Miguelito Hizon, NFHF Auditor. "Our innovative techniques in hog management such as the Tunnel Ventilated System has been recognized by our counterparts from other countries", he added.

Meanwhile, the federation is appealing to other backyard hog raisers to affiliate with NFHF. "Hog raisers will greatly benefit from joining the federation. Aside from proper representation in the government, they will also enjoy access to price and market information, technology, discounts on production materials and most of all expertise in hands-on experience and management of pig farms", concludes Mr. Gabby Uy, NFHF Chairman.

For more information on NFHF, get in touch with the Office of the Secretary through tel. no.: 924-8884 and look for Rose Cenaro or Dolly Cube.

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DISCLOSURES

JOLLIBEE Foods Corp. advised that 2,035 common shares have been availed and fully paid under its tandem stock purchase and option plan. The listing is set for Dec. 10. This brings the number of common shares listed under the plan to a total of 9,841,788.

* * *

LEPANTO Consolidated Mining Co. produced 14,852 ounces of gold, 167,591 pounds of copper and 36,758 ounces of silver in November with estimated value of P221.98 million.

* * *

BENPRES Holdings Corp. said **Rockwell Land Corp.** will begin servicing its P2-billion long-term commercial paper obligation in January 2002. The obligation is payable in 12 quarterly installments and total principal servicing requirement for 2002 is P667 million. Rockwell is finalizing talks with creditor banks to refinance its existing short-term obligations.

* * *

RIZAL Commercial Banking Corp. said it did take a look at **First e-Bank**, the thrift banking unit of **Metro Pacific Corp.**, but it was sometime ago. It was not considered a "perfect fit" for RCBC.

* * *

SAN Miguel Corp. said the **Cosmos Bottling Corp.** shares to be acquired from **RFM Corp.** consist of 1,926,858,190 common shares and 1,000 preferred shares. The transaction is a sale of CBC shares. Assets to be received consist of its two subsidiaries, **Cosmos Visayas Bottlers Inc.** and **Cosmos Bacolod Bottlers Inc.** but excluding its interest in **First Water Bottling Corp.** Payment will be in cash.

* * *

THE PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange Inc., upon recommendation of the Listing Committee and approval of the board, shall consider implementing a trading suspension on the shares of **Boulevard Holdings Inc.** on Dec. 17 for its failure to comply with the exchange's reportorial requirements, unless compliance is made before the said date. *Compiled by Armin P. Adina, PDI Research*

Stocks

(From page B1)

ready for a consolidation," Eagle Equities Inc. president Joey Roxas said.

He added that the cut in overnight rates, seen pushing market rates lower "could even be bad for banks as they do not want to lend right now, and most of their money is in government securities, so if the overnight goes down then so does the yield on these instruments."

The central bank said its actions were designed to free up bank funds and to encourage an increase in lending activity to productive sectors of the economy.

The main index ended off 3.14 points, or 0.28 percent, at 1,130.20 points. In the week since Nov. 29, the index has risen 0.15 percent. The market was closed on Nov. 30 for a public holiday.

Turnover fell to P408.97 million from P507.12 million on Thursday.

Roxas said he expected the current market correction to continue early next week as players digest recent moves, but after that it should be poised for further gains.

He saw the pre-Sept. 11 main index closing level of 1,294 points as the key upside resistance mark.

Equitable PCI Trust fund manager Edison Yap said a further pick-up in fund flows would be the key to sustaining the upside momentum.

Turnover dipped on Friday and "local funds cannot sustain the upward momentum on their own . . . they need fresh money coming in," he said.

Both the properties' and financial sub-sectors were lower, despite hopes that the central bank moves would give them a spur. *Reuters*

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Friday, December 7, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Bank of the Phil. Islands	52.5	53	52.5	52.5	335,100
China Banking Corp.	560	560	560	560	2,330
Chinatrust Comm. Bank	18	18	18	18	5,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	22.75	23	22	22	682,100
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	180	180	179	179	5,000
Philippine National Bank	50	52	50	52	9,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	14.75	14.75	14.75	14.75	100,300
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
First Metro Invest. Corp.	239	239	239	239	570
Manulife Financial Corp.	1380	1380	1375	1375	240
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	0.64	0.64	0.64	0.64	10,000
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1190	1190	1190	1190	14,340
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	25	25	25	25	5,700
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.41	0.41	0.41	0.41	2,670,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	585	590	580	585	19,800
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.49	0.49	0.49	0.49	100,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	3	3	3	3	26,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	200,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	417.5	425	417.5	420	40,610
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.021	0.022	0.021	0.022	63,200,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	23.5	23.5	23.5	23.5	13,500
Manila Electric Co. B	30.5	31.5	30.5	30.5	2,138,500
Petron Corp.	1.56	1.6	1.54	1.6	14,449,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.84	0.84	0.84	0.84	10,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2	2.02	1.98	1.98	911,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	200,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Alsons Cement Corp.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	150,000
Union Cement Corp.	1	1	1	1	50,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	10,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	60,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	12	12	12	12	10,000
La Tondena Distillers Inc.	24	24	24	24	20,600
RFM Corp.	2.3	2.3	2.22	2.22	1,075,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	10,000
San Miguel Corp. A	41.5	42	41.5	41.5	28,800
San Miguel Corp. B	50.5	50.5	50.5	50.5	36,500
Universal Robina Corp.	4.7	4.7	4.65	4.65	20,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	60,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	5	5	5	5	1,382,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.48	1.5	1.48	1.5	100,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.79	0.79	0.77	0.79	410,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	220,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	32,000,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp.	1	1	1	1	770,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	10	11	10	11	223,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	100,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.86	0.89	0.83	0.83	9,270,000
A Brown Company Inc.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	80,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	760,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.0625	0.0625	0.0625	0.0625	500,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	830,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	27	27.5	27	27	884,600
Global Equities Inc.	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	1,400,000
Guoco Holdings (Phils.)	0.16	0.17	0.16	0.165	860,000
House of Investments Inc.	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.42	150,000
Ionics Inc.	7.8	7.8	7.7	7.7	67,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.72	0.75	0.7	0.73	4,670,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.4	0.41	0.4	0.4	5,950,000
Music Corp.	0.43	0.45	0.43	0.45	27,650,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.39	0.43	0.37	0.41	168,760,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3	2,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.205	0.205	0.2	0.2	500,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.3	0.31	0.29	0.3	1,120,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Corro-Coat Inc.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	20,000
Interphil Labs Inc. B	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	30,000
Metro Alliance Holdings	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	130,000
Metro Alliance Holdings-B	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	40,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	10,000
Central Azucar Don Pedro	0.78	0.8	0.78	0.8	350,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	12	12.5	12	12.5	1,144,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.47	0.48	0.46	0.48	980,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.51	0.57	0.51	0.56	900,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.5	930,000
Manila Jockey Club	9	9	9	9	20,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	430,000
Philippine Racing Club	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	204,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	25.5	25.5	24.75	25	1,138,800
Cosmos Bottling Corp.-Pref	11	11	11	11	1,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.- Pref.	535	535	535	535	10
Equitable PCI Bank-War	1.7	1.7	1.6	1.68	177,000
Globe Telecom Hldg (Pdr)	575	575	565	565	6,000
Omico Corp. Warrant	0.0014	0.0014	0.0014	0.0014	50,000,000
RFM Corp. - Pref.	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	2,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10	10	10	10	8,000
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10	10	10	10	3,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series X	10	10	10	10	6,000
PLDT 10% Pref Series Bb	9.5	9.5	9.5	9.5	6,000
Philweb.Com Inc. -Warrants	0.006	0.0065	0.006	0.0065	111,000,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.9	2,714,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	1,000,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.215	0.22	0.215	0.22	2,600,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.39	0.4	0.39	0.39	1,370,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.24	0.27	0.24	0.26	7,600,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.78	1.8	1.76	1.76	5,856,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.225	0.225	0.225	0.225	10,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.2	0.21	0.2	0.21	410,000
SM Development Corp.	0.95	0.95	0.92	0.95	350,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.4	6.4	6.3	6.3	3,030,000
MINING					
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	3	3.2	2.5	3.2	282,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.023	0.023	0.023	0.023	3,000,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	190,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	5,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.0036	0.0038	0.0036	0.0038	7,000,000
Omico Corporation	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	20,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	500,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	200,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	211,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	46,000,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	890,000

CURRENCIES

Dec. 07, 2001

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.117568	1.000000	51.9630
Japan	Yen	0.008966	0.008023	0.4169
United Kingdom	Pound	1.596334	1.428400	74.2239
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.143462	0.128370	6.6705
Switzerland	Franc	0.678424	0.607054	31.5443
Canada	Dollar	0.710514	0.635768	33.0364
Singapore	Dollar	0.611128	0.546837	28.4153
Australia	Dollar	0.579351	0.518403	26.9378
Bahrain	Dinar	2.964530	2.652661	137.8402
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.298019	0.266667	13.8568
Brunei	Dollar	0.609460	0.545345	28.3378
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000107	0.000096	0.0050
Thailand	Baht	0.025481	0.022800	1.1848
UAE	Dirham	0.304348	0.272331	14.1511
Korea	Won	0.000884	0.000791	0.0411
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.894800	46.4965
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.457504	23.7733
France	Franc	0.152450	0.136411	7.0883
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453781	0.406043	21.0992
Austria	Schilling	0.072673	0.065028	3.3790
Belgium	Franc	0.024790	0.022182	1.1526
Italy	Lire	0.000516	0.000462	0.0240
Finland	Markka	0.168188	0.150495	7.8202
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.004463	0.2319
Spain	Peseta	0.006010	0.005378	0.2795
Luxemburg	Franc	0.024790	0.022182	1.1526
Ireland	Punt	1.269738	1.136162	59.0384

Pagcor drops bond . . .

(From page B1)

He added that Pagcor's board of directors needed only to approve the terms and conditions of the NDC proposal.

"The board had earlier approved a plan to borrow funds of at least P15 billion so we could buy the property for the Entertainment City. Among the options listed in the approval is a bond issue," the Pagcor official said.

He said the bond issue has yet to obtain some approvals, including that of a sovereign guarantee for the borrowing. A government guarantee is being sought by the three underwriters to make the debt notes more attractive to investors.

A source said that unlike Pagcor, the trade department's investment arm could offer a government guarantee. "The issue of the government guarantee is a minor one. We are really more concerned about the interest rates," Francisco said.

Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas II had said that NDC could earn P170 million in fees if it would handle the financing for Pagcor.

KEEPING MARKET SHARE

Sharp sets 6-point strategy

SHARP (Phils.) Corp., a major player in the consumer electronics business, says it is confident it can keep its market share in the Philippines intact by following a 6-point medium- to long-term strategy geared toward compensating for the "difficult times."

Koji Domoto, Sharp assistant vice president for domestic sales, said the company was confident it could maintain its share in the market for all consumer electronics product lines but added that "we will need to be more focused with our new strategies and policies."

Domoto made the statement after Asian Development Bank issued a statement about the country's economic growth falling to 2.7 percent this year amid a global slowdown and uncertainty following terrorist attacks on the United States, and the gross domestic products growth next year estimated at 3 percent.

"First, we need to bring into the market new products quickly. Second, we need to introduce new digital products. Third, we need to bring down the costs of our major category products. Fourth, we must develop new business route products and come up with model variants corresponding to sales channel requirements. Fifth, we will do our best to control and maintain the best market price and lastly, we will strengthen our service organization and reinforce our service centers nationwide," Domoto said.

Domoto explained that the first point has always been of paramount importance, whether or not the economy is bad. "The company that brings innovative products to the marketplace first usually wins. Speed in research and development, and speed in production and distribution are always advantages," he said.

The second point, he said, was a logical move for all industry players. "All the analog products are going digital. We now offer LCD TVs, digital view-cams, DVD players, and 1-bit digital amplifiers. In the near future, more digital products will be connected to the Internet, providing easier, convenient and interactive communication between Web users," Domoto said.

"However, with all consumer electronics firms going digital, there will be a need for differentiation. Differentiation will have to come in the form of design innovations and price."

Tobacco firms capitalize on Asean free trade plan

CIGARETTE manufacturers are finding a new haven in Southeast Asia as they take advantage of a regional free trade plan that shields them from steep tobacco taxes and high production costs.

Faced with shrinking Western markets, top tobacco firms are relocating to Southeast Asia to keep prices low, maximize access to nations in the region with underdeveloped tobacco-control measures and cuddle up to enticing markets, including China, health officials say.

"I know of companies that really want to develop tobacco industries in this region, but I don't have specifics as to how many but I am sure they are increasing," Shigeru Omi, the World Health Organization's regional director for the Western Pacific, told a media briefing in Manila this week.

With smokers making up more than half of Southeast Asia's 500-million population, the WHO is concerned about a continued rise in tobacco use and aggressive marketing and lobbying by cigarette producers, he said.

In the Philippines, a $300-million cigarette production facility was launched recently by Philip Morris, the world's largest tobacco manufacturer.

British American Tobacco, the world's second-largest tobacco company, has also clinched the right to form a $40-million joint venture in Vietnam with a local state-owned tobacco firm.

The tobacco processing plant will be the most modern factory of its kind in Vietnam, which has one of the world's highest tobacco consumption rates among males.

"Finding new customers in developing countries in Asia and the Pacific is an attractive option for the industry, particularly as it adjusts to shrinking North American and Western European markets," Omi said in a report released to the media.

A free trade agreement of the 10-nation Association of Southeast Asian Nations commits member countries to lowering import tariffs to between zero and 5 percent on products traded among themselves beginning 2003.

For example, cigarettes now manufactured in the Philippines will become a local Asean product if at least 40 percent of the tobacco used is from that country. The cigarettes will be exempt from customs duties when traded among other Asean member countries.

"This lowers or maintains the low cost of cigarettes and makes it more enticing for current and would-be smokers, particularly the young, to buy," Omi said.

Asean comprises Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

Asean officials argue, however, that while tobacco firms may escape heavy import tariffs through the Asean free trade plan, they can still be hit with heavy domestic taxes by individual nations. *AFP*

GOINGS-ON

Credit card for yuppies

CITIBANK is breaking new grounds with the introduction of a credit card catering to the young market. With an attractive translucent design and packed with a host of features and benefits, Citibank Clear Mastercard will definitely appeal to the country's growing number of young professionals.

Citibank's marketing director Cecille Fonacier said Citibank Clear Mastercard was the ideal starter card. It offers all the features and benefits of a regular Citibank card, plus it is enhanced by a number of perks that address the young market's lifestyle aspirations.

To do this, Citibank teamed up with popular bars and restaurants, retail stores, and other merchant establishments frequented by the young market, to give them valuable discounts.

Apo Land bags award

APO Land and Quarry Corp. recently bagged the Presidential Mineral Industry and Environmental Award at the 48th Annual Mine and Safety Environment Conference.

Apo Land and Quarry, an affiliate of Apo Cement Corp. (a member of the Cemex Philippines Group of Companies) received 102.87 percent, out of a possible 105 percent (approximately 98 percent) in the selection process, having received perfect ratings in the rehabilitation, pollution and other initiatives criterion.

At the awarding ceremonies, Sen. Ramon Magsaysay commended Apo Land and Quarry, saying that the company "is the champion for mine safety and environment management" in the country.

Carnegie Tech comes to Makati

IN 2002, the Information and Communications Technology Academy, an entirely new high-end IT university, will open right in the country's central business district.

Nicknamed "iAcademy," the university is the Philippine partner of Carnegie Technology Education (CTE), a subsidiary of the world-reowned Carnegie Mellon University.

Carnegie Mellon Univesity, one of the best IT and research universities in the world, produced graduates like Edgar Mitchell, the sixth astronaut to walk on the moon; Judith Resnick, who flew on the maiden voyage of the space shuttle Discovery; and Herbert Simon and Allen Newell, who together created a new computing language that opened the field of artificial intelligence. Carnegie graduates likewise created the robots used to clean up the nuclear spill in Three Mile Island. The prototypes of these same robots were later used to clean up Chernobyl.

To spread the benefits of the Carnegie education worldwide, the university created Carnegie Technology Education. Via the internet, CTE provides its global partners with curriculum for two major certification courses: Computer Programming and Softwear Systems Development. A successful completion of these courses allows one to work as a programmer, system analyst, designer or engineer highly in demand in top corporations all over the globe.

Digitel aims to hit 80% capacity use

BY ABIGAIL L. HO

GOKONGWEI-OWNED Digital Telecommunications Phil. Inc. said it aimed to hit 480,000 subscriber base by end next year, representing 80 percent of its capacity of 610,000.

As of end-November, the telecommunications firm already has 410,000 of its total capacity subscribed.

For the same period last year, Digitel had 350,000 to 370,000 subscribers. Its end-November numbers for this year represents an 11 percent to 17 percent growth from figures in 2000.

The 410,000 subscribers it has at present represent over 67 percent of Digitel's total capacity.

Digitel director for product management Chito Geronimo said in an interview yesterday that the company had disconnected a lot of lines in the past several months due to the economic downturn.

To further help the phone company keep its existing subscribers as well as lure new ones, it launched a campaign in November that gives current subscribers a chance to win P20,000 monthly and P1 million in the grand draw.

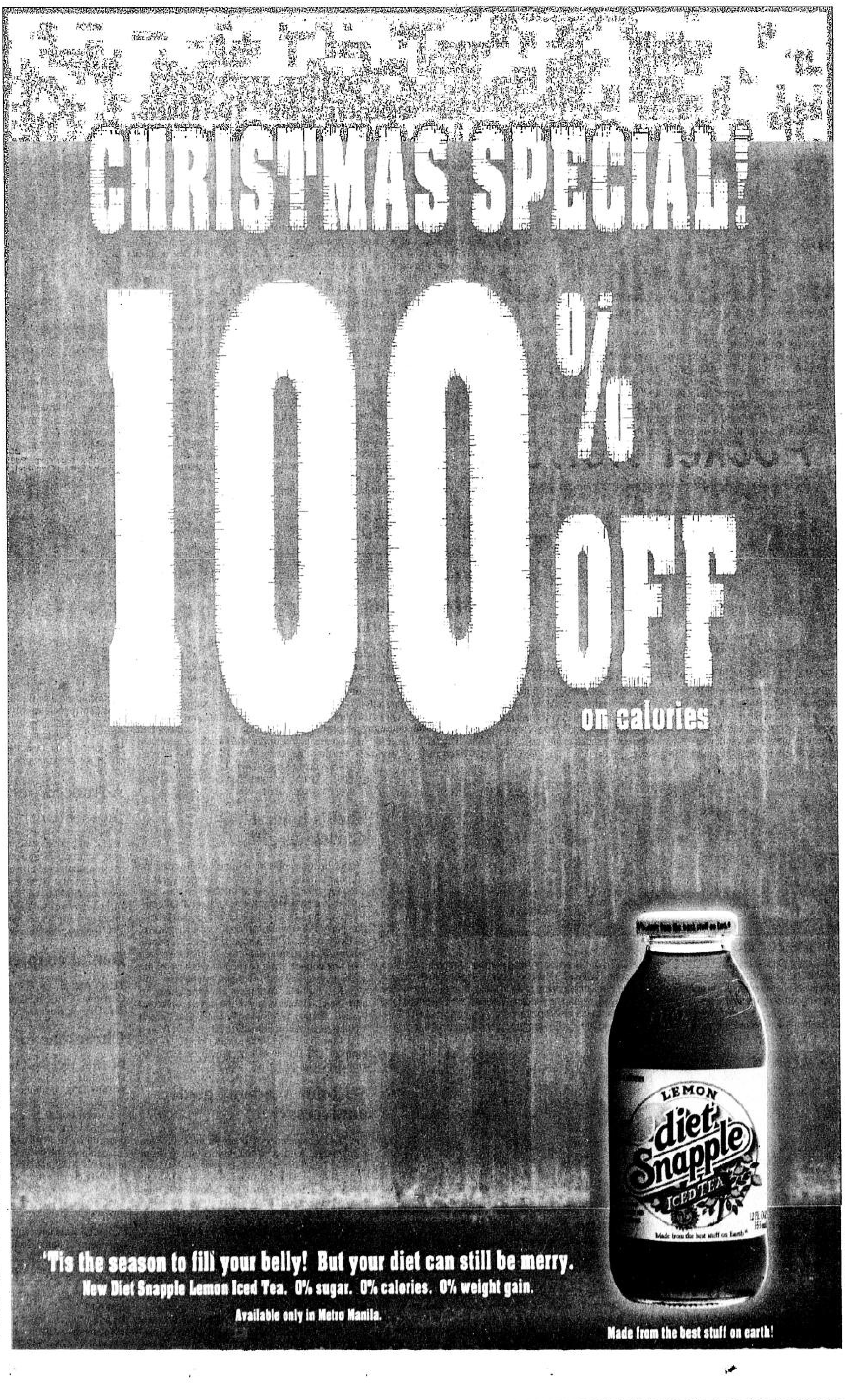
"We'd like to be able to generate around 16,000 to 20,000 new subscribers within the next five to six months, for the whole duration of the promo. This involves existing customers as well so this would also help us retain them as well as encourage them to keep their accounts current," Geronimo added.

Also, he disclosed that the company was planning to bundle Digitel's fixed line services with its yet-to-be-launched wireless service.

"It's a trend that we should explore. We already have customers on the ground. That will be a direction that we'll be taking," he said.

Digitel is set to hold a soft launch of its cellular service by early next year. Its commercial operations will start within the first quarter.

The telecom firm is the second largest landline service provider in the country today. It is 47.4 percent owned by the Gokongwei family's flagship company, JG Summit Holdings Inc. Swedish company Telia AB holds a 9.4-percent stake.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People, Events & Products

Aries B. Espinosa, Assistant Editor

aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Leo Burnett Manila wins another first for RP

STILL fresh from winning the country's first-ever award at the prestigious New York International Advertising Festival, Leo Burnett Manila bagged another first for the Philippines, this time a Certificate of Excellence for the most innovative use of outdoor media.

LB Manila's Mr. Clean Election Poster won the award at the Asian Outdoor Advertising Awards held in Hong Kong recently.

The ad was released in May at the height of the election campaign, which was marked by mudslinging and charges of fraud and corruption.

Such irregularities preoccupied the consciousness of the market, spontaneously creating a demand for a public figure with a clean and unblemished reputation.

Seeing the opportunity, LB Manila quickly developed a poster campaign for an unexpected candidate – Mr. Clean – with the blurb "*Walang bahid and pangalan!* (No stains on him)".

It was a non-traditional approach to the most traditional of all media, but relevant, engaging and perfectly targeted for a budget of less than P150,000.

Only 11 agencies in the whole of Asia made it to the finalist stage of this competition and only five of them were awarded certificates and spikes (equivalent to silver and gold awards, respectively).

This year, LB Manila has already earned international recognition for print, direct marketing, radio and now, outdoor, demonstrating its ability to generate world-class ideas across all media.

The creative team behind the poster consisted of Richard Irvine, Mayette Guerrero, Badong Abesamis and Farlet Vale.

Ranked sixth among the Philippines' top agencies, LB Manila is part of transnational advertising network Leo Burnett Worldwide, whose global operations include 94 full-service advertising agencies and a variety of specialty marketing services. The company handles at least seven of the world's 25 most valuable global brands.

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GLOBE/ISLACOM, BAYANTEL
CO, PHILCOM,
DIGITEL, EXTELCOM, PTST, ETPI
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GLOBE SIGNS ACCORD WITH DILG FOR 'PATROL 117'

Globe Telecom recently signed an accord with the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) for its security and development program 'Patrol 117 Streetwatch'. During the contract signing '117' was designated by participating telecoms companies as a universal emergency hotline number in landline and cellular phones and trunk radio where the public can call to ask for police assistance or report a crime. Other signatories to the contract are telecoms carriers Philippine Long Distance Telephone Company, Smart Communications Inc., Nextel Communications, Bayan Telecommunications Inc., Philippine Association of Private Telephone Companies, Philippine Global Communications, Digital Telecommunications Philippines Inc., Express Telecommunications Company, Philippine Telephone and Telegraph Company, Eastern Telecommunications Philippines Inc. and Trunk Radio Operators Association. Shown (from left) are Foundation for Crime Prevention Program chair Jose Pardo; DILG Secretary Jose Lina, Jr.; PLDT vice president for government relations Paulino Gueco and Globe Telecom vice president for customer service Emmanuel A. Aligada.

AVAYA-ANIXTER RENEWS TIES WITH LOCAL RESELLER

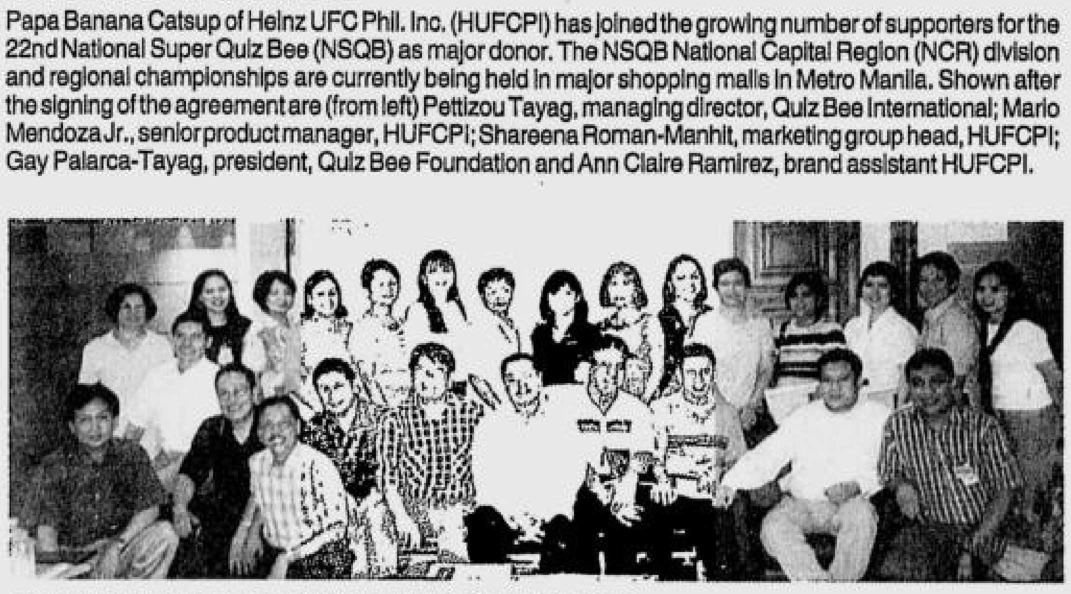
Further strengthening their position in the local market, Avaya, through its local exclusive distributor Anixter Philippines, has renewed its ties with Phil-Data Business Systems, Inc. to be one of its systems integrator. Signing the agreement are (center) Virgilio Dela Vega, vice president, Phil-Data and Trip Allen, regional sales director, Anixter Inc. Flanking them are Dino Antonio Bartolome (seated, left) assistant vice president, Phil-Data and Roberto Esagunde (seated, right) country sales manager, Anixter Phisl. Standing are Bert Cariaso Jr. (left), integration projects manager, Phil-Data and Sheila Mojica (right) account executive, Anixter Phils. Avaya, the former New Enterprise Networks Group of Lucent Technologies, carries the Systimax Structured Connectivity Solutions.

NUOVA SIMONELLI OWNER TOURS RP DISTRIBUTOR

Sandro Felizianni (left) recently toured distributor of Nuova Simonelli Espresso machines Allegro Beverage Corp (ABC). Felizianni is the principal owner and president of Nuova Simonelli. With him are (from left) Leo De Leon, president, Allegro Beverage Corp. and Paolo Nesi, owner, Café Maestro and L'Opera, one of the finest Italian restaurants in town. ABC is also the authorized distributor of Danesi espresso beans and frosty factory slush machines.

SUPPORT FOR QUIZ BEE

Papa Banana Catsup of Heinz UFC Phil. Inc. (HUFCPI) has joined the growing number of supporters for the 22nd National Super Quiz Bee (NSQB) as major donor. The NSQB National Capital Region (NCR) division and regional championships are currently being held in major shopping malls in Metro Manila. Shown after the signing of the agreement are (from left) Pettizou Tayag, managing director, Quiz Bee International; Mario Mendoza Jr., senior product manager, HUFCPI; Shareena Roman-Manhit, marketing group head, HUFCPI; Gay Palarca-Tayag, president, Quiz Bee Foundation and Ann Claire Ramirez, brand assistant HUFCPI.



UCPB MANAGERS COMPLETE WORKSHOP

United Coconut Planters Bank branch managers recently completed their workshop on Advanced Strategic Branch Market Planning. The workshop modules covered enhanced approaches in business development, market niche-segmentation, multi-dimensional market mix, effective retention programs and interactive strategy/tactic implementation management. Additionally, an economic briefing of the Philippine business scenario was covered for better appreciation. Renowned consultant/trainer/speaker Ricardo de Vera (seated, middle with glasses) facilitated the workshop program. De Vera's approach in training is called 'interactive-experiential' which is a new intervention that effectively addresses the paradigm shifts of participants. His expertise is on the areas of marketing, credit management, salesmanship, motivation/attitude, leadership, self-improvement. De Vera can be called at 0917-

Casio's super expandable PDA is here

HOT from its highly successful debut in the US market, the Cassiopeia Pocket Manager BE 300 is now here in the Philippines to amaze techies, non-techies, business professionals and students alike.

The Cassiopeia Pocket Manager BE-300 is Casio's most expandable personal digital assistant (PDA) ever introduced. It is one of the first Windows-powered PDAs with robust business features as well as a color touch screen. Best of all, the BE-300 Pocket Manager—with all its sensational Super-PDA features—comes at a mid-range price.

Leading-edge features are a 32-K RAM size, color touch screen display, and superior

Expandability. It includes a USB/Serial Connector and a Compact Flash card slot (Type II). It is Casio's first PDA model to feature an optional PC Card unit that accepts a variety of expansion PC Card modules including wireless LAN cards and wireless modems. The Pocket Manager series features an open development framework based on Windows CE 3.0 operating system, which provides software developers an easy method to port over popular business applications.

The Cassiopeia Pocket Manager BE-300's compatibility with CompactFlash (Type II) Card opens up these applications to the user: Digital Camera Card for taking still pictures and storing them in JPEG files, CF Memory Card that enables storage of large volumes of data, and Low Power Ethernet Card to easily connect to corporate networks and download data at a speed 500 times faster than typical serial ports.

As a data management tool, the Pocket Manager BE-300 offers personal information management (Calendar, Contacts, Tasks and Notes functions), PC Synchronization with Microsoft Outlook 97/98/2000, e-mail, viewing of data from Excel/Word/Powerpoint, Web Browser and Photo Viewer.

The Cassiopeia Pocket Manager BE-300 is available in all Western Marketing and Globatronics outlets, as well as in all leading computer shops. For product and order inquiries, call Business Plus Marketing at 637-6420 to 22, or e-mail casioedu@mozcom.com.

BITS & Clips

PMA accepting CPM exam applications

THE PHILIPPINE Marketing Association has announced that application is now open for the 15th qualifying examinations for Certified Professional Marketer (CPM-Asia Pacific) scheduled in March 2002. The closing date for the filing of applications is Dec. 10. The minimum requirement for application is a bachelor's degree in any course and five years marketing work experience. Subjects covered are marketing research, marketing communications, marketing strategy, Asia Pacific Business, and Asia Pacific Marketing Management. For more information, interested marketers may call professor Renato S. Esguerra, chair, PMA-CPM Project, PMA Secretariat, room 2414, Cityland 10, Tower I, 6815 Ayala Avenue, Makati City or visit www.pma@philonline.com.

Shell's biggest Christmas gift

THIS Christmas season, Pilipinas Shell gives the Filipino family the chance to win thousands of gifts, including Sony home theater systems, trips to Bangkok and Hong Kong and personal computer sets through its Family Gift Overload promo. For every P300 worth of single or accumulated purchase of fuels, lubricants and Select products in any Shell station nationwide, motorists can earn one coupon for a chance to win any of the 2,250 preliminary and 145 major gift prizes worth over P10 million. Customers have the choice to drop their coupons in any of the three drop boxes labeled "Daddy", "Mommy", and "Kids". Each box has its own corresponding gift prizes. Promo runs from Nov. 16, 2000 to Jan. 15, 2002. Preliminary gift prizes will be drawn on Dec. 10. Grand draw is on Jan. 30, 2002.

St. John Academy golden anniversary

ST. JOHN Academy will celebrate its golden anniversary with a grand homecoming from Dec. 12 to 15 at Calamba, Laguna. All alumni may call Nick Diaz at 895-1231, 896-9013 and 870-8764; Cristy Yabut (0917-9634569), and Nery Mendoza (0917-8906374 or 049-5452273).

CACS bone density test

THE CRUSADER'S Academy Catholic School (CACS) batch '77, in cooperation with Merck Sharp and Dohme Phils. (MSD) will hold a bone density test to be held at the San Lorenzo Ruiz Academy Canteen Area today, Dec. 8, from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. The project is for the benefit of the San Lorenzo Ruiz Academy old and present faculty members and staff.

RCBC PRIZE WINNER

RCBC TeleMoney concluded its 'Padala Ng Swerte Part II' raffle draw by giving away house and lot packages, educational plans and door prizes to its clients. Shown (second from left) is senior regional manager Emmanuel G. Valendria of Pacific Plans Inc. awarding a Pacific Educational Plan worth P30,000 to winner Leonardo G. Julian, an OFW from Saudi Arabia. With them are Wilfredo F. Songco of RCBC TeleMoney Marketing and Gretchen Santos of Grepalife.

CDO HAM SALES BRIEFING

CDO officials Jon Bendicion, marketing manager, and Ed Reataza, vice president for sales and marketing, launched the company's Christmas hams via a sales briefing last week in Valenzuela City. The specialty hams include CDO Holiday Ham, Pear-shape ham, Chinese ham, American ham and Hamon de Bola. Despite the crisis, the meat processing industry is bullish on Christmas hams sale this year, citing Filipino tradition as the saving factor.

Advanced workshop on Green Productivity

THE PRODUCTIVITY and Development Center of the Development Academy of the Philippines (PDC-DAP) is inviting professionals in public and private sectors involved in the financial management, pollution control, productivity improvement, production control and environmental management to participate in the Advanced Workshop on Environmental Economics: Cost Effectiveness of Green Productivity. A joint undertaking with the Asian Productivity Organization (Apo), it will be held from Dec. 10-14 at Edsa Shangri-La Hotel, Mandaluyong City. Interested applicants can call PDC at 631-2137 or 631-0921 to 30 local 171, look for Norman Nangca or Ayin Buensuceso.

Dental chapter Christmas party

THE PARAñAQUE Dental Chapter will hold its 4th Hirit Seminar and Christmas Party at Vivere Suites at Filinvest Corporate Center on Sunday, Dec. 9. Registration starts at 12 noon.

Christmas for PWDs

IN THE service and commitment for pastoral care for Persons With Disabilities, AMO-PDM, Archdiocese of Manila Office for PWDs and AMO-CDM, Catholic Deaf Ministry will organize the special event "Together to Get There, Pasko para sa mga batang may kapansanan!" Join us on Dec. 9, Sunday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Savio Park, Don Bosco Technical Institute, Pasong Tamo, Makati. This affair will give the opportunity for PWDs to share their talents, express their love and enjoy the company of the many people who wish to care and spend precious moments with them. For more information, or for contributions, call the AMO-PDM office at 561-2617 or 562-4264.

UST Philets sets fellowship outing

FORMER graduates and students of the faculty of philosophy and letters of University of Santo Tomas, fondly called as Philets, will hold a fellowship outing at the Sunlight Resort along the national highway of Antipolo near the entry of Teresa, Rizal (after Solid Cement and Villa Sampaguita) on Sunday, Dec. 9. Current Philets chair Neal H. Cruz of the Philippine Daily Inquirer, along with founding chair Jose Burgos Jr. and incumbent president Roy Acosta of the Philippine Meteor will lead former classmates in the fellowship flashback of the great Philet years of the 50s and 60s. Philets members may call the office of Vic del Fierro Jr. to confirm their participation at 776-2763, 547-7302, 547-7286 or 821-6417.

SM Appliance Center

PayLite INSTALLMENT PLAN
The longer, the lighter!

LiBReNG APPLiANCES ARAW-ARAW!

ARIES B. ESPINOSA, Assistant Editor SPROJECTS@INQUIRER.COM.PH **GRACE PENALES**, Account Manager

Paylite helps promote brands, increase sales of appliances

> *With Citibank Paylite, cardholders are offered financial flexibility since they can enjoy 3, 6, 9, 12, 18 or 24 monthly installments in their big-ticket purchases*

APPLIANCES are high-priced items that customers cannot just buy impulsively.

But with the Paylite scheme offered by Citibank to its cardholders, shoppers can now plan their purchases and can even avail of zero-interest promotions and additional discounts.

According to Norman Reinoso, marketing services manager of CYA Industries, distributor of GE appliances in the Philippines, the PayLite Installment Plan is of big benefit to customers because with PayLite they now have the option of a deferred payment plan that fits their budget.

With Citibank PayLite, cardholders can enjoy financial flexibility since they can choose from 3, 6, 9, 12, 18 or 24 monthly installments in their big-ticket purchases.

But more than the benefits the PayLite scheme has given to its cardholders, appliance manufacturers and suppliers are also more than happy to what the PayLite Installment Plan has done to their respective businesses.

Additional exposure to their respective brands, direct increase in sales of their appliances, thereby creating an additional demand in the production of appliances are just some of its direct benefits.

Ben Uy, sales manager of Union Industries, says Citibank PayLite has helped move their higher-priced items such as Stainless Steel Refrigerator and Artfridge into more households since PayLite has made owning a Union appliance easier on the budget.

For Angie Limbaco, ads and promo manager of Samsung Electronics Philippines Inc., the PayLite scheme has a direct increase in their sales since more people are buying appliances through PayLite.

"PayLite helps increase our sales," echoes Evelyn Villafuerte of Hanabishi Philippines ad and promo department.

Since PayLite is not only a promotional offer that is limited to a certain period, cardholders can avail of it anytime of the year. They can also use it to enroll their child in school, get new school supplies or throw a party anytime they want.

And with the cell phone craze around, cardholders have maximized the PayLite feature buying themselves the latest handsets.

"On the part of Samsung, which has introduced seven new cell phone models in the last two quarters, we have noted a significant increase in our sales," explains Limbaco of Samsung.

She adds that in the ongoing Globevolution, the sales of Samsung units has placed it to a strong No. 2 among the handsets on sale.

"With Citibank PayLite, our production output increased as the demand from merchants and dealers also increased," observes Villafuerte.

The PayLite scheme has also helped promote their brands.

"It helps in product recall, for customers to be aware of our products," echoes Limbaco.

PAYLITE/B9

THINK OF IT AS A LIFE SUPPORT SYSTEM
XD-V555-H

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Heart rates begin to accelerate.
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See. Hear. Live.
It's VCD capable. MP3 compatible.
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FRONT 100W FRONT 100W POWER OUTPUT PMPO 2400W VCD MP3 3 DISC ROTARY

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Ave [illegible] Cubao, Frisco, Manila 5TH AVENUE - Makati, Megamall, Alabang ABENSON - Alabang, Calamba, Cubao, Ermita, Galleria, Makati, North Edsa, Sheridan, Waltermart Sta. Rosa, Waltermart Makati [illegible] Galleria, Landmark, Pasay Rd. SM APPLIANCE - Bacoor, Cebu, Cubao, Fairview, Iloilo, Makati, Manila, Megamall, NE Annex, NE III, NE Main, Pampanga, Rockwell, Southmall, Sta. Mesa WESTERN MARKETING - Commonwealth, Farmer's Plaza, Festival Mall, Grand Central, Megamall, Morato, P. Tuazon, Recto, Sta. Rosa NORTH PROVINCIAL DEALERS - Addessa Pangasinan, Magic Appliance Dagupan, Northern Tarlac, Saver's Mall Angeles, Saver's Mart Balibago, Saver's Mart Tarlac, Tiong San SOUTH PROVINCIAL DEALERS - Asian Home Cebu, Gleen Marketing Pagadian, Gleen Marketing Tacloban, Golden Bell Davao, Golden Bell Zamboanga, Mindanao Solidmark Butuan, Mindanao Solidmark C.D.O., Mindanao Solidmark Dipolog, NC Centerpoint Zamboanga

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by REAL PEOPLE.

DAEWOO WASHING MACHINE MODEL DW6834
- Washing capacities for twin-tub: 3.5 kg., 4.2 kg., 5 kg. and 6.8 kg.
- Also available: Fully automatic at 6.5 kg.,7 kg. and 7.5 kg.

"Mas maganda yung purong plastic...Subok ko na, maaasahan ang DAEWOO."

RUST FREE
POLYPROPYLENE BODY!
100% non-metal

Estella Buensuceso
Grandmother

"When I tried knocking it was pretty strong"

Henry Bolo
Media Personality

"Rust free, matibay!"

Cela & Leah Haboc
Housewife & Student

"Less maintenance, hindi mangangatngat ang wirings"

Mary Grace
& Arnold Sinangote
Repair Shop Owners

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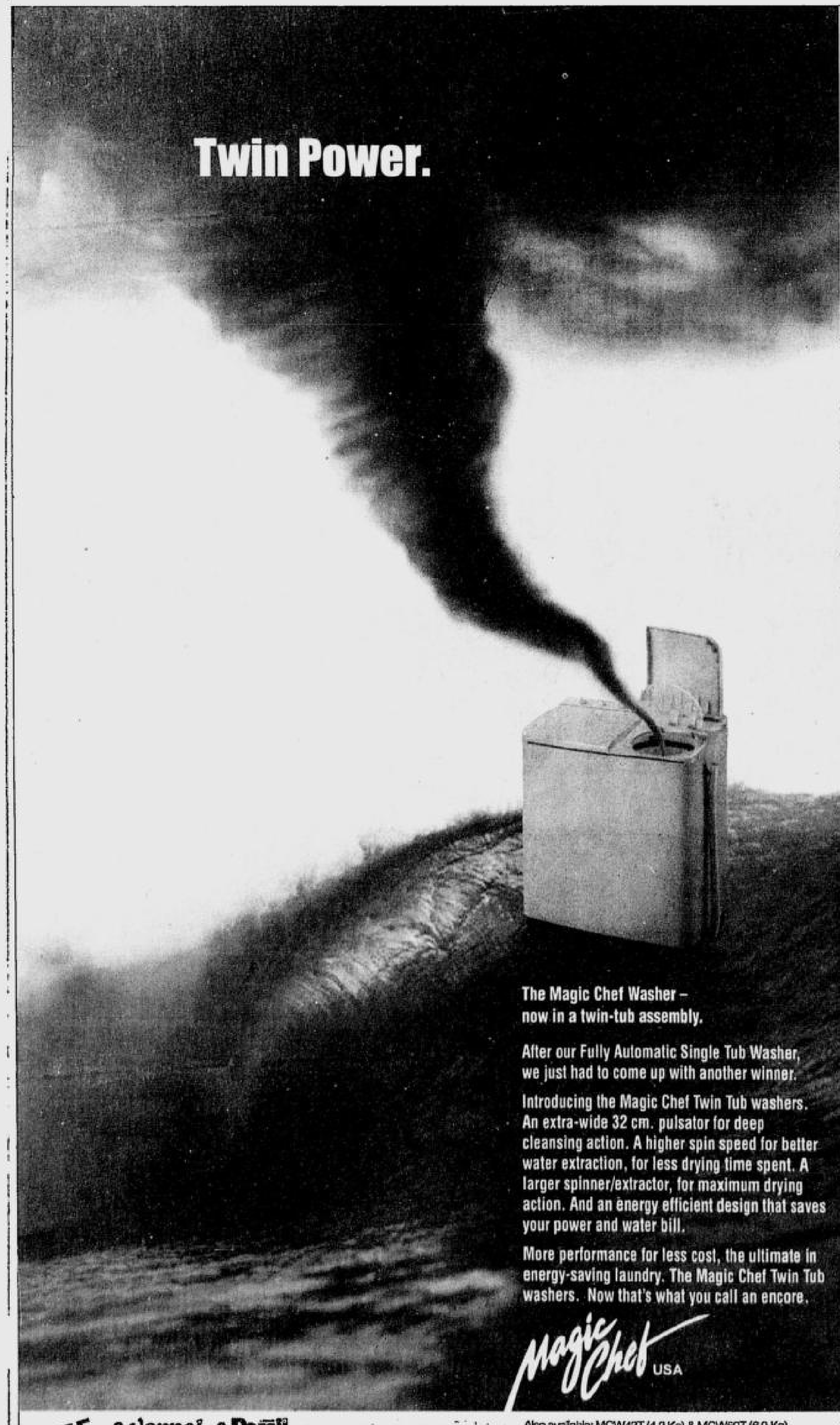

The Magic Chef Washer –
now in a twin-tub assembly.

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Introducing the Magic Chef Twin Tub washers. An extra-wide 32 cm. pulsator for deep cleansing action. A higher spin speed for better water extraction, for less drying time spent. A larger spinner/extractor, for maximum drying action. And an energy efficient design that saves your power and water bill.

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Magic Chef USA

FREE 6 Vernel 35mL 6 Persil 35mL
For every purchase of Magic Chef twin tub.

Promo period starts Sept. 15 - Dec. 31, 2001.
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N.E. 111 924-24-22 / 927-39-66
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LiBReNG APPLiANCES ARAW-ARAW!

Daewoo Electronics introduces latest excalibur model

KOREAN electronics and appliance innovator Daewoo recently introduced in the Philippines its latest color TV model in the Excalibur Seies, the DTQ20D5. This 20" silver model is equipped with features normally found only in bigger models.

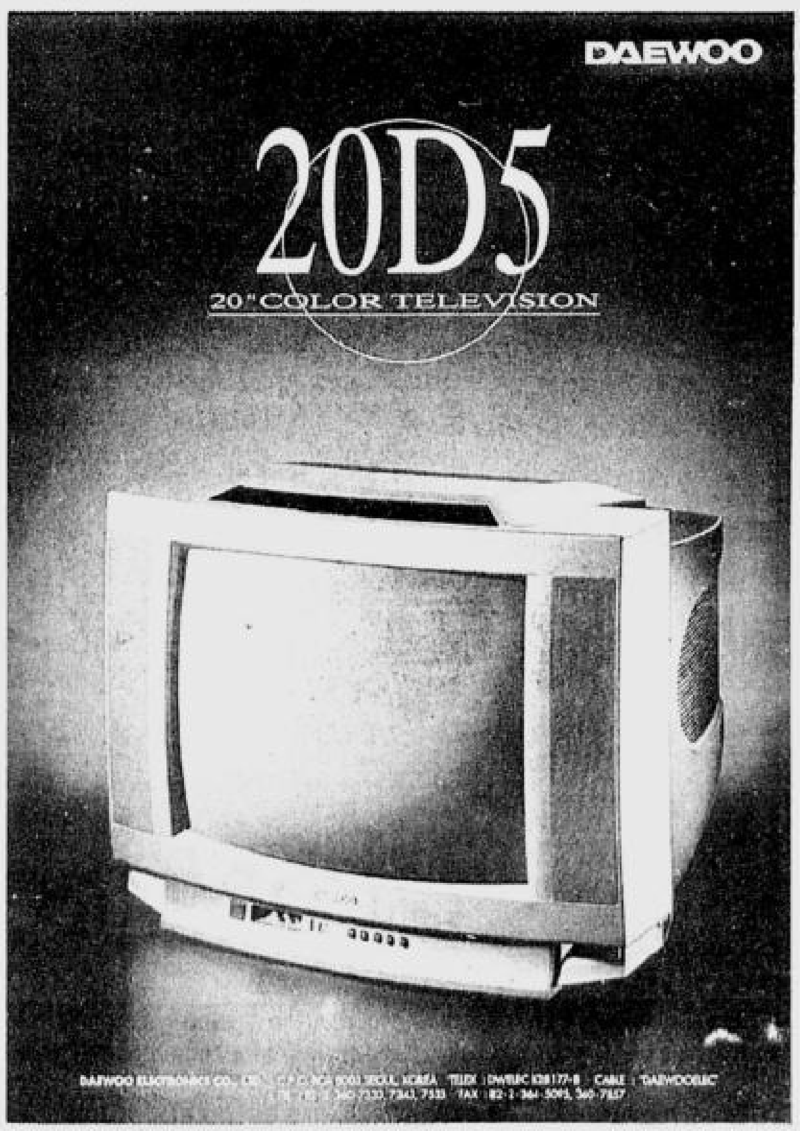
The Excalibur 20 D5 boasts of the picture-in-picture feature which allows the viewer to simultaneously monitor two shows – almost like getting 2 television sets for one. Viewing pleasure is greatly enhanced with its powerful double multi-channel TV sound with stereo option and graphic equalizer. The viewer can also capture images onscreen by making use of the advanced Still-Screen function. Other extra features are the Zoom Function and the wide screen option.

The introduction of this latest model is the latest addition to Daewoo Electronic's wide range of Color TV options such as 14", 20", 25" and 29" conventional and flat sets. Other products offered under the Daewoo Electronics Brand include the increasingly popular twin-tub polypropylene washing machines, fully automatic washing machines, vacuum cleaners, water dispensers and showcase refrigerators.

Despite the difficulties of its automotive counterpart, Daewoo Motors, Daewoo Electronics has survived and even progressed during the Korean financial slump. In fact among the 12 Daewoo partner companies, among which there has been no managerial and financial interdependency, Daewoo Electronics has been cited by an appraising creditors' group as the most successful corporate restructuring example."

Products from Daewoo Electronics are available at all leading appliance stores nationwide.

> *The Excalibur 20 D5 boasts of the picture-in-picture feature which allows the viewer to simultaneously monitor two shows – almost like getting 2 television sets for one*



DAEWOO Electronics' latest Excalibur model offers advanced features normally found in bigger-sized TV's.

AdBoard, GMA Network presented 'Muro Ami' for a cause

THE ADVERTISING Board of the Philippines Inc. (AdBoard), in cooperation with GMA Network Inc. has just presented the "Wave of Change", a special showing of "Muro Ami" recently at Ayala Center, Makati City.

On that occasion the Adbaord turned over their donation to Senden Home, a regular beneficiary of the AdBoard's community outreach program.

Representatives of the nine member organizations of the AdBoard, namely Pana, 4As Phils., Asap, CAAP, IBA, KBP, MORES, OAAP, and Primo were also present to participate in the worthwhile endeavor.

Participating sponsors were: Philippine Daily Inquirer; major sponsor: GMA Network Inc. Ayala Land; minor sponsors: Citibank N.A., Nestle Phils., PLDT Co., The Philippine Star, Century Canning, College Assurance Plan (CAP) and Baby Magazine, donor.

Condo living highlighted in My Home's 6th issue

VERTICAL developments take center stage in the latest issue of Earth+Style My Home magazine. Highlights include the stylish "showroom" abode of Old Asia's Monette Mapa, design icon Edong Lazatin's mod pad in Tagaytay Highlands and interior designer Ivy Almario's cosmopolitan flat for people living in the fast lane. Also featured is the Muslim-inspired home of one of the country's style icons, Tingting Cojuangco, as well as the ancestral vacation home of Basic Advertising's chair and CEO, Herminio Ordoñez. Palanca awardee Ino Manalo takes you on a tour of his Philippine-themed yet contemporary home.

Design spotlight, a regular section of the magazine, provides tips on beautifying storage spaces to help achieve the harmony of function and style while keeping clutter away. The garden section features the sprawling backyard designed by Tony Leaño, inspired by Antipolo's famous Hinulugang Taktak. In the entertainment section, paper artist Tes Pasola shares her unique gift packaging ideas, just in time for the upcoming Yuletide season.

Published by Earth+Style Corp., the lifestyle property developer, in cooperation with Mega Magazine and Publications Inc. (MMPI), Earth+Style My Home continues to make beautiful Filipino lifestyles happen through providing tools necessary to cope with today's fast-paced environment. Earth+Style My Home is available bi-monthly in newsstands, bookstores and specialty shops nationwide for P125.

PHILIPPINE FUJI XEROX BRINGS OFFICE SOLUTIONS SOUTH

Philippine Fuji Xerox Corp. (PFX) recently conducted a two-day product show and seminar called 'Serving Solutions to the South,' which presented the latest Fuji Xerox Office Solutions to commercial areas in Visayas and Mindanao. Held recently at the Waterfront Hotel in Lahug, Cebu City, the event attracted more than 50 companies interested in taking advantage of PFX's digital technologies to enhance document management and become more productive and competitive. They also came to appreciate the latest Fuji Xerox products such as the DocuPrint C621, the DocuColor 1250, the Xerox 8825 Engineering System, the Document Center 400/551 and the Docuworks and Centerware softwares. Shown is Mark Valbuena, PFX Solution Specialist (standing), conducting a Document Management Solution seminar to key customers.

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GLOBE SUPPORTS 9TH NATIONAL PR CONGRESS

Globe Telecom recently signed on as major sponsor to the 9th National Public Relations Congress organized by the Public Relations Society of the Philippines (PRSP). Slated recently at the Garden Ballroom of the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel, the 9th PR Congress brings together the country's top PR practitioners and professionals. Shown presenting the congress bag to PRSP is Globe Telecom SVP for corporate and regulatory affairs lawyer Rodolfo A. Salalima and 9th PR Congress chair Cynthia J. Gruet (second and third from left, respectively). Looking on are Globe Telecom AVP for Public Relations Jones Campos and PRSP secretariat manager Sonia Tejada.

Coca-Cola
BACOLOD COCA-COLA SUPERVISORS UNION (BCCSU)
PACIWU-TUCP
SEPT 6 2001-BUSINESS Inn HOTEL, B CITY

COKE CBA SIGNING

Coca-Cola Bottlers Philippines Inc. (CCBPI), represented by area group director for Visayas and Mindanao Manuel Agdon (standing in dark shirt) renewed its collective bargaining agreement with Bacolod Coca-Cola supervisors-union Paciwu-TUCP headed by its president Rommel Aledron. The event was finalized recently at the Business Inn Hotel in Bacolod City and was also witnessed by union members as well as CCBPI Bacolod Plant management committee.

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Paylite helps promote brands . . . (From page B7)

The PayLite Installment Plan is a value feature of Citibank credit cards that lets cardholders pay for high-priced appliances in longer and lighter payment terms. This feature gets even better whenever Citibank enters into tie-ups with big merchant establishments such as malls and supermarkets. Ongoing until Jan. 13, 2002 is the SM-Citibank Appliance Fiesta at the SM Megatrade Hall at the 5th level of SM Megamall.

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WITH NO END IN SIGHT

Japan topples into 3rd recession in 10 years

TOKYO—Japan has slumped into its third recession in a decade, and the economy is set to deteriorate further as prices slide and unemployment rises amid the global slowdown, the government said Friday.

Gross domestic product in the three months to September fell 0.5 percent from the previous quarter, when the world's second largest economy shrank a revised 1.2 percent.

Two consecutive quarters of contraction are widely defined as a recession.

"The US economy is experiencing negative growth at the moment, and it is quite possible that we will see a severe figure for October-December," State Minister for Economic and Fiscal Policy Heizo Takenaka told a news conference.

On an annualized basis, Japan's economy shrank 2.2 percent during the three months to September and 4.8 percent in the June quarter.

Takenaka referred to a "fear economy," with Japanese reluctant to spend due to concerns about their prospects as unemployment rose to unprecedented highs.

"Households seem more concerned about the future than we expected," Takenaka said.

Consumer spending, which accounts for two-thirds of Japan's GDP, sank 1.7 percent over the quarter, the sharpest slide since the end of 1999, due to rising unemployment and wage cuts.

Japan's jobless rate climbed to a record high of 5.4 percent in October, and most economists expected the level to hit 6 percent by next year. Takenaka said layoffs and wage cuts were being implemented faster than the government had expected.

In the past month, high-technology leaders such as NEC Corp. and Hitachi Ltd. have accelerated restructuring plans that include cutting the jobs of over 100,000 workers. The financial sector is also cutting back staff, with most major banks suffering losses as they speed up the writing off of bad loans and the value of their share portfolios sink.

The Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the United States and discovery of mad cow disease at home further chilled consumer sentiment, economists said.

Capital spending by the private sector rose 1.1 percent over the quarter, led by investment in information technology, but a global slump in demand for high-technology products would depress future investment, said UBS Warburg chief economist Hiromichi Shirakawa.

Public investment also grew 3.2 percent over the three-month period but this would subside as the government reined in spending to contain the national debt, which ballooned to 130 percent of GDP, economists said.

Takenaka said the government was committed to implementing its reform drive—despite fears it would further chill the economy—which included a clean up of the banking sector, a cap on new government bond issues and a more efficient allocation of budget spending.

Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi has called for a relatively slim 4-trillion-yen ($33-billion) second extra budget to take total supplementary spending this fiscal year to 7 trillion yen.

But some analysts and lawmakers argue the amount will be insufficient to offset a depression.

Takenaka told reporters that Japan should retain a revised forecast for the year to March of a 0.9-percent contraction in the economy. "I believe it will not be significantly off target." *AFP*

Are the bulls readying for another run?

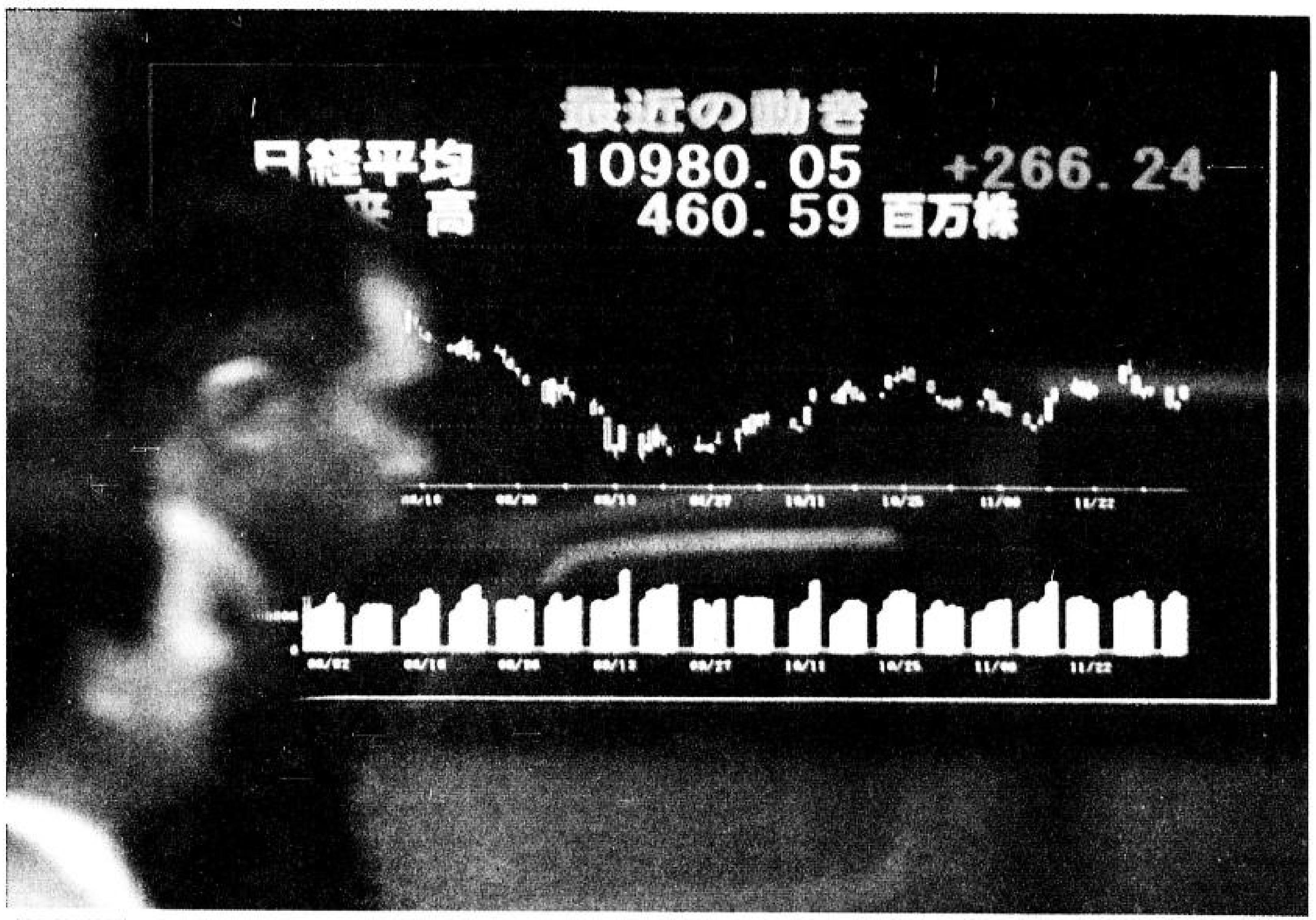
NEW YORK—With the Dow Jones industrials above 10,000 for the first time since before the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, hopes for a new bull market are intensifying.

For investors burned by the precipitous losses of the last 1-1/2 years, the prospect is especially exciting. Analysts, while pleased at the market's recent progress, warn that caution is in order.

Even though many predict December will be a good month for stocks, they contend that most advances are likely to be gradual. They also say a lot has to happen in the broader economy before the stock market can truly start to expand again.

"Having pierced through 10,000 is a good thing, and I think market sentiment will be buoyed quite a bit," said Tim Leach, chief investment officer for Wells Fargo's Private Client Services. "As to whether we're in a new bull market or not, I'd say certainly not. We've experienced more of a snapback from the artificial lows created by the tragedy of 9-11."

Scott Bleier, chief investment strategist at Prime Charter Ltd., said Wednesday's close meant the markets were at a crucial point. *AP*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JAPANESE businessmen walk by an electric stock board in Tokyo. Japan has slumped into its third recession in a decade, and the economy is set to deteriorate further as prices slide and unemployment rises amid the global slowdown, AP

Matsushita retirement draws 10,000

TOKYO—More than 10,000 workers at leading Japanese electronics manufacturer Matsushita Electric Industrial Co. and its subsidiaries have applied for early retirement, the company said Friday.

"This compared with the earlier forecast of approximately 8,000 employees (opting for early retirement) made on Oct. 30, 2001," the company said in a statement.

Another 13,000 workers have been redeployed within the group as it shifts emphasis to higher value-added businesses such as components and devices, and services, the statement said.

It is the largest ever early retirement program in Japan and about 70 percent of those taking up the offer were in their 50s, the Nihon Keizai Shimbun newspaper reported.

As a result, MEI, known for its Panasonic and National brands, was likely to substantially widen its group net loss forecast for the year up from 265 billion yen ($2.1 billion) due to higher severance payouts, the paper said.

Matsushita, Japan's top consumer electronics firm, said in October it suffered an interim net loss of $579 million in the six months to September and would cut 8,000 jobs due to the global economic slowdown.

MEI had a total of 292,790 group employees in March, a spokesperson said. *AFP*

Productivity growth slows down in US

WASHINGTON—US worker productivity grew in the third quarter, albeit smaller than first estimated, as companies scrambled to cut their labor costs to stay afloat while the economy struggled to climb out of recession.

Productivity, or worker output of goods and services per hour, outside of the farming sector rose at a 1.5-percent annual rate in July, August and September, revised down from the 2.7-percent growth initially estimated for the quarter, a Labor Department report released on Thursday showed.

That followed a 2.1-percent growth recorded during the second quarter.

While offering hope the US recession would not be long-lasting, the productivity report showed a sharp drop in hours worked that suggested the labor market would suffer at the hand of corporate cost cutting until profits stabilize.

"That's something that's unavoidable because of the dynamic response of companies switching to survival mode in the uncertainties that exist in the wake of Sept. 11," said Ken Mayland, economist with ClearView Economics in Pepper Pike, Ohio.

A separate Labor Department report on Thursday showed this softness in the labor market was indeed continuing. *Reuters*

Argentina on the brink of bankruptcy

BUENOS AIRES—Argentina stood on the brink of bankruptcy Thursday after the International Monetary Fund refused to release the latest $1.264-billion aid payment urgently needed to meet debt payments.

Before heading for emergency meetings with the IMF in Washington, Economy Minister Domingo Cavallo sought to reassure wary investors, even as the government was negotiating with bondholders and other creditors.

"Argentina will pay the debt that it has despite the IMF action," he said amid concern Argentina would default on its $132-billion public debt.

"In every negotiation, the time comes when an accord is reached. It can take days or weeks, but I can guarantee an agreement will be reached."

IMF directors refused Wednesday to sign off on Argentina's economic program, a decision that effectively blocked clearance of the next payment from a $21.6-billion line of credit.

On Thursday, an IMF spokesperson said Argentina should meet its belt-tightening economic targets, in particular a commitment to cutting the deficit to zero, in order to continue receiving assistance.

Cavallo, emerging from a meeting with President Fernando de la Rua, declined to answer questions about how Argentina would meet its debt payments.

"The preoccupation of Argentines is not this," he said. "Leave the question to foreign creditors and let them respond."

Argentina, which is battling a 43-month recession, has a $1.2-billion debt payment due later this month including 480 million dollars in interest payments that must be paid to avert a full-blown default.

But Cavallo said, "the priority of the government will be (making) pension payments, paying salaries of the state and payments for normal functioning of the government."

He admitted, however, that "the next 90 days will be complicated because there will be conflicts of interest" as Argentina moves into the second phase of its debt swap, aiming to lower payments by exchanging high-yielding bonds for lower-yielding ones with longer maturities.

The inability to get additional funds from the IMF will make it more difficult for Argentina to maintain its currency peg with the dollar, which guarantees the peso remains at parity with the US currency.

Reflecting rapidly sinking confidence in the Argentine peso, money exchange houses in neighboring Paraguay bought it at a 51-percent discount Thursday. *AFP*

Intel, AMD hike 4th quarter sales forecasts

SAN FRANCISCO—Intel Corp. and its long-time rival, Advanced Micro Devices Inc., on Thursday both boosted their sales forecasts for the fourth quarter, suggesting that holiday sales of personal computers might not be quite as grim as many had feared.

Intel indicated it now saw fourth-quarter sales at the high end of its previously given forecasted range of $6.2 billion to $6.8 billion and might exceed that.

AMD expected sales to rise 10 percent or a bit more from the third quarter's $765.9 million. Last month, the company forecast sales to be little changed to up slightly.

Analysts and investors have raised expectations since last week, when Intel chief financial officer Andy Bryant said at an investor conference in Arizona that he was increasingly confident in its quarterly sales.

Intel now expects fourth-quarter sales of $6.7 billion to $6.9 billion.

"In fact, revenue may slightly exceed our previous expectations," Bryant said on a Thursday conference call to discuss the update. "Business appears to have returned to seasonal patterns."

Typically, fourth-quarter sales are higher than in the third, paced by holiday sales. The company also said that supplies for its Pentium 4 chips were tight and it could not get enough chips to customers who wanted them, which could be benefiting Sunnyvale, California-based AMD.

However, the sales increase in the fourth quarter from the third is typically higher. In Intel's case, its revised guidance suggests a rise of 2 to 5 percent. Historically, that increase has been 10 percent or more.

Analysts forecast Intel's profit at 10 cents a share, with a range of 8 cents to 12 cents, according to Thomson Financial/First Call. Sales were pegged at $6.59 billion.

Intel has been moving as quickly and as aggressively as possible to make only the Pentium 4 chip and phase out the less expensive Pentium III chip by the end of the year. Robertson Stephens analyst Eric Rothdeutsch estimates that Intel gets an average $210 per Pentium 4 chip compared with an estimated $140 for the Pentium III. *Reuters*

Jobs picture seen as bleak for months

WASHINGTON—The US employment picture will look bleak well into next year as the economy pulls out of recession, but the biggest job losses have likely already been felt, economists say.

Friday's crucial November employment report from the Labor Department will shed more light on the shaky US job market knocked down after the Sept. 11 attacks, but many economists say that corporate cutting could be stabilizing and might trickle to an end by mid-2002.

"The hemorrhaging that we've seen in previous months is probably not going to be as severe," said Anthony Chan, chief economist at Banc One Investment Advisers in Columbus, Ohio.

That view was consistent with the latest report from Challenger, Gray and Christmas, a Chicago outplacement firm.

Challenger said the number of layoff announcements by US companies fell 25 percent in November, but planned job cuts remained high, totaling 181,412 last month. In October, they totaled 242,192.

Although the Challenger data help economists get a handle on the tone of the labor market, the job cuts announcements don't necessarily move in tandem with the Labor Department's employment survey, viewed as one of the broadest measures of the economy's performance. *Reuters*

Now outpacing VCRs, digital versatile disc player sales skyrocket

427244
PLAYER
DVD+VCR

A SHOPPER looks at a row of DVD and VCR players at a Costco warehouse store in Mountain View, California. In foreground is a DVD and VCR combination player. DVD player sales are skyrocketing and have surpassed VCRs, while places like Costco are making more room for DVDs. AP

SAN JOSE, California—Never mind that Sean Walton already owns 150 movies on videotape. The movie enthusiast is quickly building a new collection—this time, on DVD.

It's been only a month since the Redwood City man invested $170 in a DVD player, and he already owns 25 DVD movies. "I love the extra stuff they throw in that you don't get on video," Walton said, clutching three DVDs on his way out of a movie rental store.

Americans are making the DVD player "the fastest growing consumer electronic product of all time," according tp the Consumer Electronics Association.

In its history of barely five years, DVD players are already on the cusp of penetrating a third of American households—a feat that took the VCR twice as long to achieve.

Monthly shipments of DVD players surpassed those of VCRs for the first time in September and repeated the feat in October as stores stocked up for holiday shoppers. VCRs remained big sellers in other months, however, so yearly sales of DVD players were not expected to surpass VCRs until 2004.

"It is a phenomenon, and it proves that picture and sound quality do count," said Jim Barry, a spokesperson for the CEA.

DVD, which stands for digital versatile disc, offers twice the resolution of standard VHS and features six channels of audio, allowing for a surround-sound effect. DVDs let users quickly jump between movie "chapters" and are packed with extra features, including trailers, alternative movie endings—even games you can play on a computer.

Blockbuster recently cleared 25 percent of its dust-gathering VHS tapes at all of its stores to make more room for DVD rentals, doubling the number of DVDs at some stores from 2,000 to 4,000.

DVDs account for 20 percent of Blockbuster's domestic rental revenues and the company expects it to grow to 40 percent by the end of 2002.

Annual shipments of DVD players quadrupled to 4 million in 1999 then doubled to 8 million in 2000, outpacing industry observers' expectations. They were expected to reach 12.5 million units this year.

By comparison, VCR shipments peaked at 23 million last year and were expected to decline to about 22 million units this year.

The closest product to rival the DVD player's steep adoption rate would be the black-and-white television in the years after World War II, Barry said.

Does this mean VCRs will soon be obsolete?

Not immediately.

"VCRS are not going away soon—the prices are so low and most of us still have libraries of tapes of the kid's first step, the wedding, the graduation," Barry said.

And as long as DVD recorders remain out of reach for the average consumer—the handful of DVD recorders available today cost about $1,000 or more—analysts expect many households will continue to hold on to their VCRs to record television programming, even if they never did figure out the blinking LCD display.

"There are 90 million VCR players out there and there are things—like Barney tapes—that are not on DVD," Blockbuster spokesperson Elizabeth Green said. "I think there's room for both." *AP*

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•New Mabuhay Massage Xmas 1+1 Promo 421-5996

Scent's & Touch 820-1341

UNWIND M/F Mkt 7520437

VIP-M/F-8312373 09193591771

REFLEXOLOGY

BANAWE SPA M&F 7411426

CAIRO CARLA 716-4898

Edward Reflex 7289285

Field of Dreams Extended Promo up to Dec. 31 Rate P400 Tel 7123699/7121066

Manhunt Massage 9162650

Reflex 09196658730/8445117

Simeon 4487002/09192401268

TUTORIAL LESSONS

•Adept Tutors @ 8833671

LA LUZ 5268216/70

MISCELLANEOUS

Accpt dance lesson9361039

HOUSEHOLD

FLOOR SANDING

AC. Sanding Sev's Dustles Snd'ng Parq't, Planks T&G T-259-8987, 0917-7626828

HOUSEHOLD JOBS

BEST MAID 7111602/7115039

BEST MAIDS 912-4701•9124706

•BEST MAIDS W/NBI CALL 421-2938

Cook Maid Yaya Driver 8743305

GOOD MAIDS w/NBI 4218262

Good-Maid-Yaya-Boy 7570579

Help Agency 532-1947 • 532-8376

H'GIRL YAYA COOK 8708799

International Cook 8735271•8722792

MAIDS BOY DRIVER 8533504/8533505

Maidyaya cook drivr7225119

NURSE•Midwife•Oldsitter•Yaya 8720265•7722353•8429807

PACIFIC MAIDS ETC SINCE 1948 T:7312672

Prov'l MAID YAYA COOK LABA BOY DRIVER 873-5082•871-2370

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

HOUSEHOLD

LIPAT BAHAY

L-BAHAY 9206784 4540520

A-1 LIPAT BAHAY 4313974

•CHEAP LBAHAY 9260424•

LBAHAY 7113540

L-BAHAY 712-16-92

L-Bahay 801-0759 Cheap

L-Bahay 805-4913 Cheap

Lipat Bahay • 824-1227

LIPAT BAHAY w/5 helpers 24 hrs. svc 7128861 / 7315750

•LIPAT•731-6833

CARPET CLEANING

Sofa Shampooing 820-7068

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

COMML/RESDL

MANILA

Rush Comm'l. Lot P2M Comml Near Toyota Otis Tel. 776-9507 • 823-1356

QUEZON CITY

NEW MLA 260m² @ P22T• 540m² w/hse P8M• 9268552

VARIOUS AREAS

★ AYALA GRNFIELDS★
ESTATE (CALAMBA)
In the foothill of Mt. Makiling
Enjoy a breathtaking view of nature 360° w/luxury of modern comforts by Ayala Land 600-2000m²@P8th/m² &up
Pay 20% bal 5-7yrs mo. install

WESTGROVE HEIGHTS
AN AYALA SOUTH COMMUNITY
New Phase Open nr gate church St. Scho. 350-700m²
Lots P7800 &up Pay 10%DP
Balance 5yrs inhse
Bank-Financing 10yrs

★ MONTGOMERY★
adj. Trinity College & St. Lukes Hospitals 2-3BR 100-200m²FA @P6M-P11.5M Cash
or 2yrs installment, no interest
5yrs w/interest,10%fixed install

★ STA ROSA ESTATES★
alg Sta Rosa-Tagaytay Hway gated residential community for middle-upper income families 3BR 3TB LA160-370m² FA90-169m² Price 3.3M P6M DP20%, Balance 5yrs with complete facilities

★ TIERRA PURA★
Hse&Lot 5-6BR@P12M
550-670m²@8-9,500/m²
T.VERDE 430/450m²@7,700
Pay 30% Balance Terms
MIRANILA 230m²@9t w/view
TACLIN V. BANEZ
931-9117 • 931-9160

HOUSE & LOT

MARIKINA

FILINVEST MARCOS HWAY LA352 FA460+ w/ ofc/lib /AVRm 4BR P10M 6826083

Grnlnd bnew 3br 2M 9487112

PASIG

New H&L Ortigas C Terms 656-0771 / 655-4960 / 655-7974

QUEZON CITY

Blueridge 640m² 4BR 20M neg
Valle Verde6 945m² 6BR 33M
Mindanao 300m² w/3Apt 4.5M
Capitol Estate 2BR TH 2.2M
Call 426-5420 / 0917-7918952

Brand New 3br 2tb T.Sora P2.2M C/T 9310685 / 9322128

Cheap 980T only 260m² nr Rbinson, SMFview 09164747408

Proj 4 up/down 2BR 2TB 1carGarage 0917-8143792

Rush:Proj3 2sty 267m² FA 274m² 7BR 3TB 5Rm-Bsmt Carprt P3.2M Call 9137916

•SM NORTH Bnew 9263307•

SMH Simoun 706m² 2sty 5BR back Sto Domingo church P22M DBO T712-1450

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

LOT

LOTS FOR SALE

RIZAL

Residential 738 sq.m., Lot 19, Block 24, Forest Hills Residential Estates Antipolo City, Rizal; P6,000 per sqm (neg.)

1 hectare industrial/residential land, Lot 3411-A-CSD-04-689-D, Brgy. San Jose, Baras, Rizal; P400 per sqm. (neg.)

1 hectare industrial/residential land, Lot 3411-B-CSD-04-689-D, Brgy. San Jose, Baras, Rizal; P400 per sqm. (neg.)

46,481 sq.m. industrial/residential land, TCT No. M-91211, Brgy. Sampalok, Tanay, Rizal; P550 per sqm. (neg.)

PASIG CITY

198 sq.m. Townhouse, CCT-PT-15887, No. 8 Kaimito St., Las Villas de Valle Verde, Valle Verde 2, Brgy. Ugong, Pasig City; P5M (neg.)

MARIKINA CITY

Industrial/Residential, 2,067.8 sq.m. TCT No. N-129181, Molave, Bgy. Marikina Heights, Marikina City, Metro Manila; P10,000 per sqm. (neg.)

For details, pls. contact:
Franz at 921-8214/928-5067
or Tessie Pamintuan at 927-2903.

HOUSE & LOT

OTHER AREAS

RUSH!CanyonWoods Btngas 6.5M 0917-8143792

LOT

MANDALUYONG

Nr. Boni 12T/sqm 645-3731

MARIKINA

3km Only from ATENEO & up PROVIDENT VILL nr. guard&gate choice lot 350m² 5T/m² Rush 9488240

QUEZON CITY

Loyola Grand
adj Ateneo ★09185079799

RIZAL

Oro Vista Royale with View 1.4M 6810610

PROVINCIAL

Montebello
PRE-SELLING
Own a residential lot for a discounted price
1st come 1st serve
Along Maguyam Rd.
Carmona, Cavite 635-8108 Weng

SOUTHPOINT 195m² 6459931

SOUTHWOODS P4800 6459931

OTHER AREAS

ANTIPOLO CITY Rush
Forest Hills Subd.
2100 SM 8 M Call Sonny
02-7497257 045-9004902

Rush Metrogate Dasmarinas Cavite LA : 150 SQM P450T (NEG.) CALL MAR/MERCY 2946341/090163547821

SJDM BUL-292sqm CALL: TEL: 8903461 to 69 loc 34

CONDO/TWNHSE/APT

LAS PINAS

BFR 3BR2TB 1.6M 8428853

MAKATI

Want a Makati Condo?1.5M 2BR 10%DP Lipat Agad 8674916 5758367 09192176735

As low as P9,000++/mo.
Own 2BR condo unit nr. Mkti & Megamall READY 4 OCCUPANCY! Only 10% DP required; Call 888-3333 for more info.

Only 9T Monthly
Own a 2BR, 2Stry town house Nr. Mkti & Ortigas; Avail of NO DP SCHEME Call 888-3333 for more info.

MANILA

NEAR LA SALLE TAFT
VITO CRUZ MANILA
BNew/4stry/3br/3tb/grge
P2.695M up 8903461 loc 34

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

LOT

CONDO/TWNHSE/APT

QUEZON CITY

99.5% COMPLETE
FOR SALE:
FURNISHED & UNFURNISHED

ONE BEATRIZ TOWER
1st Class COMM'L-OFFICE RES'L CONDO.
N'leat VIEW (360°) of the Metropolis w/ roof top S. POOL & GARDEN and 1st CLASS AMENITIES at a *LOWEST* PRICE
ACCESSIBLE
FRONTING NCBA, A. BLVD. nr. PRESTIGIOUS SCHOOLS & IN THE HEART OF THE Q.C. BUSINESS CENTER
WHY BUY IF NOT FINISHED
BUY & TRANSFER NOW!
FEW UNITS LEFT
MASTER C RE-DE, INC.
TEL#: 921-4883/922-4464
433-7668/433-8842

MANILA

Own A Condo 13T/Mo.
Nr Ortigas, San Juan, Mdluyong & Mla. AVAIL OF BIG DISCOUNTS NOW! Ready 4 occupancy! Call 716-7039; 716-7044

QUEZON CITY

Cubao Condo P1.3M 10% D/P "EZ" Term 9126976 ; 9124428

LOYOLA HTS Semi Furn very nice with Tel SkyCable 9328547 09175258470

Mindanao Ave SMCty P710T-P8.8M★09185079799

Nr Loyola Memorial
10min 2 Ateneo, St. Lucia Libis, C-5, Riverbanks inside d Subd, with Security T-hus 2BR / Attic / 2TB 2.3M 4128163-65 / 09174696831

REGALIA PARK
Cubao 2BR P4M 09185079799

TandangSora 3br+1md 2tb P2.5M DBO 0917-8143792

Townhouse Proj 3 4.5M 7139232;09198076112

RESORT

PnsolHotSpring P7M 776-7507

FARM/FISHPEN

2HasAntipolo Directbuyer6486528

Baras Farm 1.5H 635-0462

Poultry / Piggery / Orchard w/ Fish Ponds / Ornamental Plants 532-3291 • 533-9225

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

APARTMENT

KALOOCAN

2BR w/tel Heroes 96 Call Ms. Tan 655-6349

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

CONDO/TWNHSE/APT

VILLA FELIZA HOMES
Alabang Zapote Rd., Las Piñas City
Initial DP: P 25,000

COASTAL WOODS VILLAGE
Ligas, Bacoor, Cavite
Initial DP: P 25,000

CASIMIRO TOWNHOMES
Habay, Bacoor, Cavite
Initial DP: P 15,000

WESTVILLE HOMES
Ligas, Bacoor, Cavite
Initial DP: P 15,000
FORTE REALTY
2/F Princess Bldg. Esteban St, Legaspi Village, Makati City
872-7603 871-8318
829-5081 810-7297
810-8019 776-4604
810-7183 815-2144
Welcome Brokers & Agents write to
forterealty@skyinet.net

KALOOCAN

49 Dunwoody (Behind UE) 2 BR U/D Call Tess•uboy 0918-5312368 / 362-2813

MAKATI

NEW PALANAN T#833-0796

PALM VILLAGE 2BR 2T&B 2 Grge Large Sala P20T/mo. •Call 8106650•

MANILA

1BR NR. P. GIL 5642878

PASAY

1BR P6500 NEAR H. PLAZA 0917-847-3727

PASIG

2BR 1TB nr EVER sec"D grg P8.5 Max 4person 9216889

QUEZON CITY

2BR 2TB 12T Tel 7214304

Big 3BR2TB P11T 9216691

SAN JUAN

91 A.Luna Spacious 9th/mo good location Call 6461603

HOUSE

PARANAQUE

BF Homes 3BR Maids Qtr 3TB 2Car Grge Call Nene 8298551 or Lilian 4386356

SAN JUAN

UP 3BR Nr. Sch 7219402 17T.

CONDO/TWNHSE

ALABANG

ASPEN TOWER ALABANG 1BDR with Balcony Across Festival Mall P45T a Month T8071245

MAKATI

KWOOD Mkti 3BR3TB maid qr 20T prkg 2.5T 8996632 Irene

MANILA

3BR 3sty nr. LSalle 8992148

MANDALUYONG

7Th 2BR Guevent Lib. Mand. 803-5927 ★ 0919-3902506

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

CONDO/TWNHSE

MANDALUYONG

Sem CONDO 12500/m 3BR w/TB & aircon & tel CALL Marlyn 5346253

STUDIO, 1BR & 2BR UNITS COMPLETE WITH PLDT, SKYCABLE PROVISION. Building has 24-hr security guard, smoke and fire alarm system & strong water supply. Your comfort and privacy is our business. Elynor/Gina Tel. 532-1016 Weekdays

PASAY

STUDIO nr-LRT Roxas Blvd. Buendia w/Kitchen Cabinet TB 24Hrs Guard Prkg Cable P5T Crestly Bldg. 37 Perla St. Pasay City 536-67-87

PASIG

ORTIGAS CTR 1-3BR 20-30T Sale/Rent 412-1825

RENAISSANCE 2000 PASIG 100 SQ.M. 1BDRM F P30T A MO. T8071245

QUEZON CITY

Cubao 2BR furnished 12th mo.good location 6461603

FOR LEASE

Tiaong, Quezon 11has with fruit bearing Mango Trees Fully Fenced with beautiful Farm House Call 6775509 ; 7138276

ROOM & BOARD

W/Aircon&CR SAV Mkti 8992148

BEDSPACE

Ladies SAV Mkti 8968830

LOAN & MORTGAGE

2% w/o TAKING CAR 3670169

BUSINESS RENTAL

100m² Ofc Space 7214304

Coml, Res, Apt. T 6810610

MAKATI nr BUENDIA
Ptamo 38/85/62/185m² 1st class 8903461 loc 34 or 19 ofc hrs

Tiangge Stall P8T
Dec. 1-30 or 3 mo. P20T
Univ. Mall, La Salle Taft
Beside Vito Cruz LRT
T-8903363/C-09178113363

2/F 400m² along Mindanao Ave w/prkg space. Ellen Pineda 4558157/4252763

RESORT

3has btful island white beach spring water from Ragay Cam Sur P300th Call 677-5509 ; 713-8276

PansolHotSpring Prvt 776-7507

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

FORD

2001 Sport Trac 7214452

98 Navigator 4x4 7210317

HYUNDAI

2002 Bnew Starex 7210317

KIA

Besta Van P250T (Neg) 671-3535 / 733-2507 / 0917-8472716

MERCEDES

96E 230 CMC A1 Cond 30Tkm w/Comp Ins 1.48M trade in Crv exp 09179474179

MITSUBISHI

'00 Pajero P365 7210317

NISSAN

95 LEC 150T 09177943168

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

NISSAN

98 Sentra S.S. 0917-8168618

Sentra 96EX Wellkept A1 238T Neg Lo/Km T5515491

OPEL

RUSH: LATE 1997 OPEL VECTRA SEDAN 2.0 A/T Cell#0917-525-9824

TOYOTA

90S Camry USV Matic P255 86 MR2 USV 7210317/4452

'96 L-Cruiser VXR A/T 24V Dubai Winch 7210317/4452

PREVIA VAN 92model 550T 8079151 Cel:09163788715

VOLKSWAGON

Vanagon&1303 09174012929

VAN/PICK-UP

Office Container Van 20ft. 4units •8201926•8293409•

BUSES/TRUCKS

Nissan Bus & Hino Fuso & Nissan Spare Parts @ Lowest Price 9325160

HEAVY EQUIPMENT/ TRANSPORT

Gas&Diesel Genset,Pison, Plate Compactor,Kubota Tractors 3672002 3610215

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CARS FOR RENT

L3•Cars• 9273453 4538295

Bnew L3 8533103/09163443087

BrdalMB/Vans9296250;4535288

CAR VANS 413-5383

HI ACE VANS 8252988

HONDA MB100 8908668

IT/HIACE 9136710/4333682

L300 T7411356

L300/Vans 578-8917(Roger)

StarexMB100HiAce9483535

MB HiAce L3 Urvan 8279137

Van A1-Con 12Str 433-2161

WANTED TO BUY

BUYING USED CARS 8990215

CAR LOAN

1.5% Fast Car Loan 3677523/24

2% w/o Taking Car 8966633

2% w/o taking car 7262780

2% w/oTaking Car 3646928

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 3732083

X-Mas Cash Problems?
Car Sangla • Instant!
WHILE-U-WAIT
Inquire: 9241254/ 9259121/ 9264160 We Also Buy Cars

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

PETS

Dog Trainer 09192050952

DOG TRAINER 4528681

PUG USA-Line 7431689

SPORTING GOODS

20 BOWLING ALLEY US MAPLE GOOD 2ND 044-7916370 -MART

Imported Billiard 22T, 35T Complete Acc's. 8618714/16 8613123 / 8613125

FIL GULF MANPOWER & GENERAL SERVICES, INC.
POEA LIC. NO. 187-LB-081801-R
ACCREDITATION NO. 66977

In cooperation with
PRIVATE DEPARTMENT OF H.E. SHEIK MOHAMMED BIN KHALID AL NAHYAN of Abu Dhabi, UAE
is looking for
qualified and experienced candidates
for the following positions:

A/C FOREMAN	- 1
CHILLER MECHANIC	- 2
A/C TECHNICIAN	- 3
A/C TECHNICIAN-HELPER	- 3

Good compensation package for qualified candidates.

Interested applicants may apply with complete credentials (2 sets) at FIL GULF MANPOWER & GENERAL SERVICES, INC., Manila Luxury Condominium Unit, M-4 Pearl Drive, Ortigas Center, Pasig City (backside of Richmonde Hotel, near Medical City) Tel. Nos. 6359956, 6359957

"BEWARE OF ILLEGAL RECRUITER"
This AD is allowed under MC-2

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Please be informed of the lost **official receipts #881451** to **881480** last **November 15, 2001**. Any transaction entered into using the above-mentioned official receipts will not be honored by the company.

PHILUSA CORPORATION

(PDI -- Dec. 8, 2001)

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

FOR SALE
CEMENT SILOS, CONCRETE PUMPS, TRANSIT MIXERS, CONCRETE BATCH PLANT GENSETS, TOWER CRANES, MOBILE CRANES, PASSENGER ELEV., HOISTING TOWER & MACHINES, BACKHOE
Call Jho Tel 723-8408, 724-6115

SPORTING GOODS

New Billiard P18.5T P22T P25T Ok C.Card 781-9453

WANTED TO BUY

ANY ROLEX
Buy / Sell / Pawn / Repair
Tel# 804-0484 • 834-2886

B/SELL FUL PD EDUC PLAN 7137284•09177939632

BUYING ROLEX
others, High Price CASH CALL 09178142309/7269687

DEFECT TV/COMPO 7325865

Buy/Pawn Diamonds T834-2886

SALE EDUC'L PLAN 8061574

WE BUY ROLEX
5633742 5646593 09174383744

MISCELLANEOUS

Hardwood Posts for Sale 3 to 5 inches diameter,9 feet long round eucalyptus decay-resistant and insect-resistant treated posts. Only P300 per post. Art at 696-0345 or Cip at 9215770/0917-530-5555

IMPORTED TILES
from China & Italy!
50-60% DISCOUNT!
CLOSE OUT SALE!
homogenous tiles, natural granite stone Call 4575463 0917-2544429 Isabel Co

WATER TANK HEAVY DUTY 700 Gals ("64 x 72") For: Res, Comm, & Ind. Marie 872-3490; 0916-3580612

FEMALE

Domestic Helper 5623962

Wanted: Yaya/ Hse Maids Family Cook 660-4589

MALE/FEMALE

CARE GIVER T5280730

Graphic Artist F/M Call 746-0187 or 882-3810

Off Staff 18-45 years old T-9134470 Look 4 Ms Barte

SALES & MKTG STAFF
work in Antipolo Resort single 25-35yrs old coll grad w/exp in sales & mktg computer literate pleasing personality. Call 6960240 ; 6960054

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

EARN & TRAVEL 09196165084

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

PUBLIC NOTICES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Attn: Netwrk Mktg. Ldrs Great News! If Ur Not Earning Over 200T/m @ Ur Prsnt Core Bus. Let's Talk Now 807-2359 Resh

BAZAAR-MALL SPACES 4 RENT 633-9662 ★ 633-9295

EARN FR HOME 8531008/09178311725

FRUIT JUICE DRINK MAKING BUSINESS FREE TRAINING! 2554643 UP 44 2569331 OR 36

I NEED MEDICINES HOSP SUPPLIES & EQUIPT ANY QNTY TXT/CALL09196889156

LoseWeight&Earn09197772986

RTW 4 Tiange Bazar3738821

WANTED
Wholesaler & Retailer
Tel. 8202777/09198669171

Work from Home w/Travel Opportunities 8937903

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given for the loss of Manila Polo Club Certificate No. 421 issued by Manila Polo Club, Inc. in favor of Eugenio Lopez, Jr. dated Sept. 1, 1959.
(PDI-11/24, 12/1, & 8, 2001)

PERSONAL

PRAYER TO BLESSED MOTHER
(NEVER KNOWN TO FAIL)

O most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, fruitful vine splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in this necessity, Oh star of the sea help me and show me, herein you are my Mother Oh Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech You from the bottom of My Heart to succor me in this necessity there are none that can withstand Your power. Oh show me herein You are Mother.

Oh Mary, conceived without sin. Pray for us who have recoursed to thee (3x).

Sweet Mother, I place this cause in Your hands (3x).

Thank you for Your mercy toward me and being mine.

Thank you Mama Mary for answering my prayers. Amen

(This prayer must be said for three days and after three days, your request will be granted and the prayer must be published.)

NOVENA TO THE MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS

May the most Sacred Heart of Jesus be praised, blessed, loved, adored and glorified throughout the whole world now and forever. Amen.

FOR LEASE

ALMOST NEW
FACTORY-WAREHOUSE
Located at Brgy. Lalaan Silang, Cavite

Compound - A

Building 1 - 3,888 sq.m. at P40.00 per sq.m.
Building II - 6,696 sq.m. at P40.00 per sq.m.

Compound - B

Consists of six (6) buildings with a total Floor Area of 29,000 SQ.M. at P40.00 per SQ.M.

Complete Facilities & ready for use

For inquiries, call
Tel. nos. (045) 8930201-05
Fax nos. (045) 8930206-08

REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
Pambansang Korporasyon Sa Elektrisidad
NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION
SOUTHERN LUZON REGIONAL CENTER

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID
G6-2001-001

The NPC-GENCO 6 wishes to invite interested parties to pre-qualify and to bid on the items listed below:

SCHEDULE		ITEM/DESCRIPTION	PR NUMBER
		DATE OF BIDDING : JANUARY 2, 2002; 2:00 PM	
A1	1 LOT	FIRE ALARM THERMAL DETECTOR	3NCS-01-0116
A2	1 LOT	PLATFORM LADDER	3NCS-01-0119
A3	1 LOT	LIQUID CHILLER COMPRESSOR	3NCS-01-0122
A4	1 LOT	CIRCUIT BREAKERS	3NCS-01-0123
A5	1 LOT	DRY WELL CALIBRATOR	3NCS-01-0127
A6	2 UNITS	BREAD BOARD, SOLDERLESS PROTO-BOARD SYS.	3NCS-01-0129
		DATE OF BIDDING : JANUARY 3, 2002; 2:00 PM	
B1	8 PCS	TARPAULINE	3ADM-01-0224
B2	1 LOT	GAS OPERATED RELAYS	3NCS-01-0052
B3	1 LOT	HAGEN BATTERIE	3NCS-01-0111
B4	1 LOT	SPARE PARTS FOR TOYOTA COROLLA	3ADM-01-0212 3ADM-01-0216
B5	1 LOT	REBUILDING/OVERHAULING KIT	3ALB-01-0193
B6	1 LOT	BODY REPAIR OF MITSUBISHI PAJERO 91 MODEL	3ADM-01-0215
		DATE OF BIDDING : JANUARY 4, 2002; 2:00 PM	
C1	6 SETS	SWITCH, DISCONNECT, 72.5 KV, 200A	3MAK-01-0374
C2	10 SETS	SWITCH, DISCONNECT, 230 KV	3MAK-01-0375
C3	13 SETS	SWITCH, DISCONNECT, 230 KV MELCO TYPE, HSF OR EQUIVALENT	3MAK-01-0376
C4	135 MT	CAUSTIC SODA	3TIW-01-0040
C5	100 PCS	ENDWALL, FRP	3TIW-01-0039
C6	3 SETS	WELDING MACHINES	3TIW-01-0044
C7	1 LOT	SUPPLY OF LABOR AND MATERIALS IN WATER PROOFING OF CONCRETE ROOF "SLAB" OF SUPPORT BUILDING AND MCC/SWITCH GEAR BUILDING	3TIW-01-0037
C8	1 LOT	REPAIR OF MARLEY COOLING TOWER OF UNIT NO. 6 OF TGPP	3TIW-01-0001

NOTE: A Pre-Bidding Conference will be held for the following bidding schedules on:
1.) C7-December 20, 2001; 9:00 am at SLRO Bidding Room
2.) C8-December 20, 2001; 10:00 am at SLRO Bidding Room

Schedules A1-B6 bidding shall be handled by TRANSCO South Materials Management Section. Bid documents can be obtained from their office at San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna.

Complete sets of bidding documents and other particulars may be obtained from Procurement Traffic and Warehousing Services (PTWS) Section, Administration Division, SLRC, San Vicente, Biñan Laguna, upon payment of a non-refundable fees of P25.00 and P50.00 per schedule for single and two envelope, respectively starting **December 11, 2001**. No bid documents will be issued on the date of bidding.

Non-accredited suppliers can get pre-qualification papers and submit the same for evaluation not later than **December 21, 2001** before they allowed to bid.

Only those pre-qualified shall be allowed to participate in the bidding. Bids will be received at the SLRC Bidding Room, NPC-SLRC, San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna until 2:00 o'clock P.M. on the dates specified above after which said bids will be opened in the presence of attending bidders.

All bids regardless of price offer must be accompanied by Bidder's Bond in form of Cash or Certified Manager's/Cashier's Check, or a GSIS Surety Bond equivalent to five percent (5%) of the total bid price.

The NPC-SLRC reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at anytime prior to award of contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidders or any obligations to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for the NPC-SLRC's action.

(Sgd.) **R. J. MEDINA**
Manager, Administration
GENCO 6

(PDI--Dec. 8, 2001)

NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION
161 Bonifacio Drive, Port Area, Manila
Tel. No. 527-4873, 527-4892 & 527-4880 to 82

INVITATION TO BID

GENCO 1 01-014 (PB)

DATE OF BIDDING — DECEMBER 21, 2001

0101-031	6 units, Desktop Computers, Intel Pentium III 933 MHz or AMD Athion: 1 GHz (min.)
0104-034-TES	6 units, Various Motor Compressor, 10, 15 & 30 TR
0111-060	1 lot, Various Pipes & Fittings for Chlorinator Plant, Material Acrylonitrile Butadiene Styrene (ABS), consisting of 8 items
0111-061	8 pcs., Solenoid Valve, Model 4F510-B1U, Pilot Type, 5 Port Solenoid, Brand CKD with 6 pcs. Coil Solenoid, 230 V AC, 60 Hz
0111-062	50 pcs., Reflectorize Fire Hose, size 1 1/2" dia. x 50 ft. long, high tenacity polyester and nitrile rubber integrated with hypalon kevlar filaments
0112-006	1 job, Supply, installation and testing for the upgrade of various Desktop Computers
0112-007	1 lot, Desktop Computers, Intel Pentium III, 933 MHz or AMD Athlon 1.1 GHz (min.), 1 unit Hewlett Packard Laserjet 2200 Printer, Data Switch, 3" 1 with 6 cables, Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS), 1000 VA, 220 V, 60 Hz, duty cycle and Motherboard for Intel Pentium III 933 MHz, 133 MHz FSB, 1 parallel port, 1 serial port, 2USB ports, 2 free PCI slots, ATX, ASUS or equivalent

Bid documents will be available to accredited suppliers starting **December 10, 2001** and may be secured from Administration Division during working days from 9:00 AM -- 4:00 PM upon payment of P 25.00 for ONE ENVELOPE SYSTEM and P 50.00 for TWO ENVELOPE SYSTEM.

Bids must be in triplicate and shall be accompanied by Bidder's Bond equivalent to 5% of the total bid price either in Cash, Manager's Check, Irrevocable LC, Bank Draft/Guarantee or Surety Bond from GSIS Insurance Commission.

The corporation reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or informality contained therein and accept the bids considered most advantageous to the corporation.

(Sgd.) **LORNA T. DY**
Manager
Professional Services Department

OI -- Dec. 8, 2001)

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- ➢ College graduate. Can speak/write English well.
- ➢ With pleasing personality and good moral standing.
- ➢ Knows how to swim. Preferably with jet experience.

Please submit personally your comprehensive resumé with recent 2x2 and whole body pictures at:

LAOAG INTERNATIONAL AIRLINES OFFICE
Domestic Terminal I, Domestic Road, Pasay City

Deadline for submission: Not later than December 11, 2001

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sbma
SBMA DISPOSAL COMMITTEE
SBMA Building 255, Barryman Street, Subic Bay Freeport Zone, Philippines
(0347) 252-4214/4124; Fax (0347) 252-4284

INVITATION TO BID
FOR THE SALE OF ASSORTED DISPOSABLE/SURPLUS AND OTHER SCRAP MATERIALS
"AS IS, WHERE IS"

ITEM DESCRIPTION/LOCATION	SCHEDULE OF BIDDING
Lot 1) Assorted Scrap Material from Subic Water	December 20, 2001, 2:00 PM
Lot 2) Assorted Scrap Material at Building 148 Yard	December 20, 2001, 2:00 PM
Lot 3) Assorted Unserviceable Furniture and Appliances at Building 1434 and 222	December 20, 2001, 2:00 PM
Lot 4) Assorted Restaurant Equipment at the Old McDonald Building	December 20, 2001, 2:00 PM

I. Buyers are requested to submit the following Pre-qualification documents at the Procurement and Property Management Department (PPMD), Room 201, Second Floor, Building 255, SBMA, Subic Bay Freeport Zone.

1. Certificate of Accreditation as Scrap Hauler from Trade & Tourism Group or PPMD, SBMA.
2. Latest Income Tax Return (ITR 2000) of the bidder or copies of Audited Financial Statement of the Company and Certification of Cash Deposit by a reputable bank.

II. Deadline for submission of the Pre-qualification Papers is on December 13, 2001, Thursday (5:00 PM). No extension.

III. Pre-Bid Conference and Issuance Bid Forms (P100.00 per set) will be on December 17, 2001, Thursday (3:00 PM).

IV. Bid Bond is required in the form of cash or manager's check equivalent to ten (10%) percent of the total bid price in favor of SBMA.

V. Inspection will strictly be by Group on the following schedules:

Lot 1 and 2) December 13, 2001 - 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM
Lot 3 and 4) December 14, 2001 - 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

VI. For other information, inquiries and/or request for inspection, call Tel. No. (047) 252-4214/4283 (c/o Danny Sanchez).

VII. SBMA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality found therein or to reject/accept such bids as may be deemed most advantageous to SBMA.

Done this 6th Day of December 2001.

(Sgd.) **CAPT. VICTOR L. MAMON**
SDA for Operations
Chairman - Disposal Committee

(PDI -- Dec. 7, 8 & 9, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agriculture
Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources
860 Quezon Ave., Quezon City, Metro Manila 3008
Tel. Nos. 372-50-57 * 372-50-43
Fax Nos. 372-50-48 * 372-50-61

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID

The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, Department of Agriculture invites all eligible Bidders to Prequalify and to Bid for the following projects:

1. **Drydocking and Minor Repair of M/V DA-BFAR.**

Particulars:

LOA	-	60.00 meters	Depth	4.5 meters
Breadth	-	54.00 meters	Gross Tonnage	1186 GT

1.1 Only Marina Accredited Shipbuilders/Owners are qualified to participate in the project.

2. **Construction of Approximately 200 Square Meters Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Station and Fishing Technology Laboratory at Navotas Fish Port Complex, a project under the Bantay Dagat Program (KR II).**

2.1 Only Licensed Building Contractors are qualified to participate in the project.

Interested Parties can obtain the Prequalification Requirements at the PBAC Secretariat at the BFAR Property Section, Ground Floor, Arcadia Bldg., 860 Quezon Avenue, Quezon City from **December 10 to 11, 2001**.

Deadline for submission of two (2) copies of the pre-qualification documents will be on **December 14 to 17, 2001**.

Bidding documents will be made available only to pre-qualified bidders upon payment of minimal fee of five hundred pesos (P500.00) only. **December 18 to 19, 2001**.

Schedule of Pre-bid Conference
1. Drydocking and Minor Repair of M/V DA-BFAR **January 3, 2002** at 3-5 PM at the 4/F BFAR Conference Room.
2. Building Construction Project, **January 3, 2002** at 1-3 PM at the 4/F BFAR Conference Room

Submission and Opening of Bids will be on **January 10, 2002** at 2:00 PM at the 4/F BFAR Conference Room.

Failure to comply with the requirements shall be immediate ground for disqualification.

BFAR reserves the right to reject any or all Bids. Waive any defect or informality thereof, accept the bid and award of the contract to the winning bidder with the most advantageous offer to BFAR. The BFAR assume no responsibility to compensate or indemnify the bidder for any expense or loss that may be incurred for the preparation of bids, or does not guarantee that an Award will be made.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. REUBEN A. GANADEN**
Officer-In-Charge

(PDI -- Dec. 8, 2001)

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Davao City (Dec. 21-22)
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louiseoco@yahoo.com
lori.schuetz@ihs-inc.com

Just bring two (2) clear copies of the following requirements:
1. CGFNS Certificate*
2. B.S.N. Diploma
3. PRC License
4. Picture page from Passport
5. Board Exam Rating
6. Transcript of Records
7. Resumé with 2x2 pictures
8. Work Certificates

** Those who are just waiting for their CGFNS result may also apply.*

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT
A. Francisco Gold Condominium II Edsa Cor. Mapagmahal St.,
Diliman, Quezon City

OFFICE OF THE PREQUALIFICATION, BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION FOR PREQUALIFICATION

December 4, 2001

1. The Government of the Philippines (GOP), through the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), has received an ODA Loan from Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) in the amount of NINE HUNDRED FIFTY ONE MILLION JAPANESE YEN (Y951 million) toward the cost of the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Project, Phase V (RWSSP V), Loan Agreement No. PH-P201, dated December 28, 1999, and intends to apply a portion of the proceeds of the loan to payments under the contracts for which this Invitation for Prequalification is issued. Disbursement of the ODA Loan by JBIC will be subject, in all respects, to the terms and conditions of the Loan Agreement, including the disbursement procedures and the "Guidelines for Procurement under JBIC ODA Loans". No party, other than the GOP, shall derive any right from the Loan Agreement or have any claim to loan proceeds. The above Loan Agreement will cover only a part of the project cost. As to the remaining portion, the GOP and the concerned Provincial Local Government Units (LGUs) will take appropriate measures for finance.
2. JBIC requires that bidders and contractors, as well as the GOP and the Provincial LGUs, under contracts funded with FBIC ODA Loans and other Japanese ODA, observe the highest standard of ethics during the procurement and execution of such contracts. In pursuance of this policy, JBIC:
   (a) will reject a proposal for award if it determines that the bidder recommended for award has engaged in corrupt and fraudulent practices in competing for the contract in question;
   (b) will recognize a contractor as ineligible, for a period determined by JBIC, to be awarded a contract funded with JBIC ODA Loans if at any times determines that the contractor has engaged in corrupt or fraudulent practices in competing for, or in executing, another contract funded with JBIC ODA Loans or other Japanese ODA.
3. The DILG, on behalf of the Provincial LGUs of the Provinces of Ilocos Sur, Nueva Vizcaya, Occidental Mindoro and Oriental Mindoro; announces the intention of the Provincial LGUs, hereinafter the individual "Employer", to prequalify contractors for the construction of the following four (4) separate contract/provincial packages under the RWSSP V;

ILOCOS SUR
- 62 units deep well
- 10 units shallow well
- 11 units school toilet
- 1 unit public toilet

NUEVA VIZCAYA
- 23 units deep well
- 19 units shallow well
- 5 units school toilet

OCCIDENTAL MINDORO
- 25 units deep well
- 51 units shallow well
- 2 units school toilet
- 1 unit public toilet

ORIENTAL MINDORO
- 29 units deep well
- 11 units shallow well
- 1 units school toilet
- 1 unit public toilet

4. It is expected that the Provincial LGUs, each individual Employer, will issue Invitations to Bid on March 2002 for their respective provincial package to be bid consisting of Level I water supply and sanitation facilities. The estimated date of contract award is May 2002.
5. Prequalification is open to firms and voluntarily formed joint ventures from all countries and areas. An Applicant, and if prequalified, a bidder (including all members of a joint venture) shall not be one of the following:
   (a) A firm or an organization which has been engaged by the DILG/Employer to provide consulting/NGO services for the preparation related to procurement for or implementation of this project;
   (b) Any association/affiliation (inclusive of parent firm) of a firm or an organization mentioned in subparagraph (a) above; or
   (c) A firm or organization who lend, or temporarily second their personnel to firms or organizations which are engaged in consulting/NGO services for the preparation related to procurement for or implementation of the project, if the personnel would be involved in any capacity on the same project.
6. Applicants will be evaluated in two (2) stages. Stage 1 or "Preliminary Screening" is to assess the document formality required in the Prequalification Documents with pass or fail criteria. Stage 2 is the "Detailed Evaluation" to examine whether the submitted documents comply with the "Minimum Requirement" for each item of: a) Financial Position, b) Experience, c) Personal Capabilities, and d) Equipment Capabilities with pass or fail criteria.
7. A minimum requirement for qualification is to have successfully carried out similar projects at least for within the past five (5) years. The minimum License Category required per contract/provincial package for each of the Provinces of Ilocos Sur, Nueva Vizcaya, Occidental Mindoro, and Oriental Mindoro is Medium B; with Classification in General Engineering and coverage in Water Supply, and in General Building.
8. Applicants who wish to be prequalified may obtain the Prequalification Documents from December 18, 2001 - February 4, 2002 after submission of a written request to:

The Honorable Provincial Governor
Province of
Provincial Capitol

Attention: The Chairman, Bids and Awards Commitee

of the Province of Ilocos Sur in Vigan City, Province of Nueva Vizcaya in Bayombong, Province of Occidental Mindoro in Mamburao, Province of Oriental Mindoro in Calapan City.

9. The request must clearly state "Request for Prequalification Documents for the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Project, Phase V, (name of Province). The documents are available upon payment of a non-refundable fee of One Thousand Pesos (P1,000.00) after which said documwents will be issued to the Applicant.
10. Interested firm or voluntarily formed joint venture may apply for prequalification in any one or in more than two of the provinces/provincial packages. Information required in the Application for Prequalification or Eligibility will be treated as exclusive to the province or contract/provincial package where the application is filed.
11. Submission of Applications for Prequalification must be received in sealed envelopes, either delivered by hands or by registered mail or by courier to:

The Honorable Governor
Province of
Province Capitol

Attention: The Chairman
Bids and Awards Commitee

of the Province of Ilocos Sur in Vigan City, Province of Nueva Vizcaya in Bayombong, Province of Occidental Mindoro in Mamburao, Province of Oriental Mindoro in Calapan City not later than 5:00 pm on February 4, 2002 and be clearly marked "Application to Prequalify for the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Project, Phase V, (name of Province).

12. The Employer shall under no circumstances be held responsible for late delivery or loss of the documents so mailed or sent through courier.
13. The Employer reserves the right to:
   (a) amend the scope and value of any contract to be bid, in which event the contract will only be bid among those prequalified bidders who meet the requirements of the contract as amended;
   (b) reject or accept any application;
   (c) cancel the prequalification process and reject all applications; and
   (d) waive any formality in the prequalification (PQ) process to ensure that the objectives of the PQ process are met.

   The Employer shall neither be liable for any such actions nor be under any obligation to inform the Applicants of the grounds for them.
14. Applicants will be advised in due course, of the results of their Applications. Only firms and joint ventures prequalified under this procedure will be invited to bid. A prequalified firm or a member of a prequalified joint venture may participate in all the four (4) biddings, provided they are prequalified or have passed the Prequalification for that contract bidding.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. AGRIPINO G. MORGA**
Chairman, PBAC

(PDI--Dec. 8 & 17, 2001)

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"Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life and I shall live
in the house of the Lord forever."
Psalm 23:6

Our Dearly Beloved

Cesar J. Duran, M.D.

Peacefully joined our Lord on December 7, 2001
at the age of 89.

His loving wife, **Sally**; children: **Boy** and **Amy**, **Ping** and **Evelyn**, **Manny** and **Jo**, **Pete** and **Joy**, **Nonoy** and **Malou**, **Betty** and **Danny**; grandchildren: **Azel** and **Newton**, **Gertie** and **Rodel**, **Bobet**, **Chuck**, **Toots**, **Trixie** and **PJ**, **Jay**, **Rizza**, **Geline**, **Sonny** and **Cecile**, **Denise** and **Jerome**, **Cookie**, **PJ**, **Bryan**, **Dodo**, **Boyet**, **Duckie** and **Betsy**; great grandchildren: **Javi**, **Tricia**, **Joaqui**, **Marga**, **Erick**, **Kiel**, **Angelo** and **Nicole**; brothers and sisters, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Sanctuario de San Jose, Greenhills, Mandaluyong and will be transferred to Legaspi City on Sunday, December 9, 2001.

Interment will be on Wednesday, December 12, 2001 at Sorsogon Catholic Cemetery after the 8:00 AM Mass.

"Surely goodness and love
follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever."
Psalm 23:6

Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

LUZ ASENSI FERNANDO

May 24, 1924 – November 1, 2001

wish to express our heartfelt gratitude and sincerest appreciation to all our friends and relatives who offered Holy Masses and prayers, flowers and messages of sympathy, sat with us during her wake, attended her Masses and blessing, and who in countless ways, condoled with and comforted us in our time of bereavement.

Please continue to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her husband, Alberto (Abet) J. Fernando; children, Menchit and Bim Aquino, Manny and Nel Fernando, Milette and Alan Tabhan, Boyet and Annette Fernando, and her grandchildren

---

"...absent with the body to be present with the Lord."
2 Cor. 5:8

LEANDRO PEREZ DE LEON

Died in the grace of our Lord on December 6, 2001
at the age of 75.

His wife **Belen**; children and in-laws **Amy** and **Jun**, **Willie** and **Abby**, **Dick**, **Beth**, **Lyn** and **Abel**, **Aldrin**, **Camille** and **Catherine**; grandchildren **Katrina**, **Jean Paul**, **Paolo**, **Aidan**, **Samantha** and **Justin**; brothers, in-laws and other relatives request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Naval Funeral Homes at 163 Gen. Luna Street, Malabon City.

Interment will be on Sunday, December 9, 2001 at the Holy Cross Memorial Park, Novaliches, Quezon City after the 1:30 PM Mass.

Msgr. NORIEL ARMADA PRIELA, JCD, PC

of Nabua, Camarines Sur

Director, Pili Parochial School
Parish Priest of St. Raphael Archangel Parish
Pili, Camarines Sur 1990 to 2001 (April)

Joined his Creator on December 4, 2001
at the age of 52.

His sister **Alexa**; brother **Nicolas Beda**; brother-in-law **Vic Abrenica**; sister-in-law **Marilyn Peña-Priela**; niece **Claudine Priela**; and nephews **Gian Paolo (GP) Priela** and **Michael Gabriel Abrenica**; uncles, aunts, cousins and other relatives request you to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

Funeral Mass and interment will be on Monday, December 10, 2001 at the Holy Rosary Major Seminary, Concepcion Grande, Naga City at 2:00 PM.

JULIAN "JUN" S. SUAPENGCO JR.

is welcomed in the Kingdom of God
on December 7, 2001 at the age of 61.

His loving wife **REMY T. SUAPENGCO**; children **JOEL** and **SALLY**, **JOY** and **BOM**, **JOLLY** and **KIT**, **JONBOY** and **MILKY**; and grandchildren **BIANCHI**, **JANINA**, **BIJAN**, **NATHAN** and **JOSEL**.

His remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

His interment will be on Tuesday, December 11, 2001 at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City after the 8:30 a.m. service at Arlington Chapel.

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"Eternal life will swallow up that which can die. God made us for this very reason and He has given us the Spirit as a guarantee that we will live again."
2 Cor. 5:4-5

CLASSIFIEDS

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Bldg. 229 SBMA Waterfront Road, Subic Bay Freeport Zone, Phils. 2222
Telephone (6347)252-4885/4314 Facsimile (6347) 252-4780/4185 to 87

SUBIC BAY METROPOLITAN AUTHORITY
Building 222, Dewey Avenue
Subic Bay Freeport Zone, Philippines

NOTIFICATION OF INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY

Date: December 6, 2001
Contract No. PH-P215

The Government of the Philippines through the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) has received an ODA Loan from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) under a Special Yen Loan Package in the amount of 16,450 Million Yen towards the cost of Subic Bay Port Development Project (the proposed Project), and intends to apply the proceeds of the loan to payments under the contract for the proposed Project.

SBMA intends to prequalify Contractors to bid under JBIC's procedures for International Competitive Bidding for the proposed Project which comprises:

(a) A New Container Terminal at Cubi Point (including a 2-berth container wharf and terminal, access roads, dredging, minor buildings, site utilities and navigation aids);
(b) Rehabilitation of Existing Piers and Wharves (including backup areas and dredging);
(c) Equipment Procurement and Installation (quay gantry cranes, pollution control vessel and speed boats).

Prequalification is open only to Japanese firms and voluntarily formed Japanese joint ventures meeting the specific requirements prescribed in the Invitation for Prequalification, a copy of which may be obtained from:

The Chairman
Bid and Award Committee
Attention: PMO-FAPO
Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority
Building 222, Dewey Avenue
Subic Bay Freeport Zone, Philippines

Parties wishing to receive a copy of the Invitation for Prequalification are required to present their request in writing on their company's letterhead to the above address.

The Prequalification Documents will be available from **11th December 2001** for a fee of Pesos 5,000.00 (Five Thousand Pesos), and the duly completed application must be submitted before 17:00 hours on **31st January 2002.**

SBMA reserves the right to cancel the proposed Project at any time before award of a contract and shall not be liable in any way for any costs incurred by applicants in connection with the preparation and submission of prequalification documents for the proposed Project.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. CHITO M. CRUZ**
Chairman, PBAC
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – Dec 8, 9 & 10, 2001)

U.S. EMBASSY
INTERNATIONAL BROADCASTING BUREAU
PHILIPPINES TRANSMITTING STATION

PROPERTY DISPOSAL SALE

SEALED BID SALE of used Government vehicles, warehouse building, computer equipment and miscellaneous scrap materials.

INSPECTION OF PROPERTY: December 12-13, 2001; 9:00 AM to 11:30 AM and 1:00 PM to 3:30 PM at IBB/PTS (formerly Voice of America), Tinang, Concepcion, Tarlac. Submission of bids and 20% bond in cash or Manager's check will be on December 14, 2001 from 9:00 AM to 12:00 Noon.

Tel. Nos.: (045) 982-0254 or 0255
POC: Belle Concepcion or Joel Diamzon

(PDI – Dec. 8 & 9, 2001)

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The Board of Directors, Officers and Staff of

KAMERAWORLD GROUP OF COMPANIES

announce the demise of their Chairman

DR. PACIFICO M. CASTRO, LLB, DCL

We grieve the loss of our beloved leader whose vision has inspired us to promote the entrepreneural spirit of the Filipino.

We request for prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at the Capilla del Señor and de la Virgen, Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati City.

Cremation will be held at 9:00 AM on Monday, December 10, 2001. Interment will be on Tuesday, December 11, 2001 after the 3:00 PM Mass at Santuario de San Antonio Church.

> *"I am the resurrection and the life.*
> *He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies;*
> *and whoever believes in Me will never die."*
> *John 11:25-26*

"PEC"

PACIFICO M. CASTRO, LLB, DCL

September 25, 1930 — December 7, 2001

Peacefully joined his Creator on Friday, December 7, 2001.

His bereaved wife **Ma. Teresa Rodriguez**; son **John Pacific**; brothers **Salvador** (†), **Fernando** (†), **Juan, Mariano**; and sister, **Estelita**; together with his relatives and friends request the pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at the Capilla del Señor and de la Virgen, Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati City.

Cremation will be held at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, December 10, 2001. Intement will be on Tuesday, December 11, 2001 after the 3:00 p.m. Mass at Santuario de San Antonio Church.

The Board of Directors,
Officers and Staff
of

FERGUINCAS CORPORATION

deeply mourn the demise of its
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer

DR. PACIFICO M. CASTRO, LLB, DCL

His body lies in state at the Capilla del Señor and de la Virgen, Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati City.

Cremation will be held at 9:00 AM on Monday, December 10, 2001. Interment will be on Tuesday, December 11, 2001 after the 3:00 PM Mass at Santuario de San Antonio Church.

SCIENCE/HEALTH
CESAR D. MANGAWANG, Editor ■ STELLA O. GONZALES, Assistant Editor

A second look at asthma

BY CHARLES E. BUBAN

WHEN we breathe, the muscles wrapped around our airways are very loose and relaxed, and the lining inside the airways is very thin. This allows the airways to open wide so air can get in and out freely in our lungs. But for a large number of individuals, this uncomplicated routine becomes unbearable during an asthma attack.

During such attack, the muscles around the airways tighten up causing the lining inside the airways to swell or thicken and get clogged with lots of thick mucous. A wheezing sound is produced when breathing out, causing much discomfort and suffering.

Asthma, a chronic lung condition, is increasingly being recognized as a major international public health problem. During the past 15 years, its prevalence around the world has doubled, with around 100 to 150 million people suffering from it today. It has affected 10 percent of children and about 5-10 percent of adults in many countries, according to World Health Organization statistics last year.

Asthma mortality is also increasing in many parts of the world. The figure appears to be higher in industrialized nations like Australia, England and Wales, Germany, Japan, Canada and the United States.

Here in the Philippines, asthma has a prevalence rate of about 12 percent, affecting some 8 million Filipino children. The Philippine Society of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology in coordination with the International Study on Asthma and Allergies in Children (Isaac) reported that of the 56 countries who participated in the Isaac Phase 1 project, the Philippines ranked 32nd in "self-reported asthma" and 36th in "allergic rhino-conjunctivitis." They also reported that the prevalence of allergic rhinitis (hay fever) in the 6- to-7-year-old group is 26.7 percent and 32.5 percent in the 13- to 14-year-old group.

ILLUSTRATION: JED ESTRADA

Easing asthma attacks

There is no cure for asthma, but there are medications and ways to control and relieve symptoms. Because asthma attacks (or exacerbations) are episodic, they require long-term management which for many patients means taking preventive medication every day.

A multifaceted approach is required, including educating, treating and providing continual medical care and monitoring for people who have asthma, changing behaviors that lead to asthma or worsening of asthma, and eliminating or avoiding asthma triggers.

Common asthma triggers include viral infections; allergens such as domestic dust mites (in bedding, carpets and fabric-upholstered furnishings), furry animals, cockroach, pollens and molds; tobacco smoke; air pollution; exercise; strong emotional expressions; chemical irritants; and drugs like aspirin and beta blockers.

People with asthma need to learn how to measure the severity of an oncoming attack using a measurement tool such as a peak flow meter—a small, portable device into which patients blow to determine how their lungs are functioning.

Asthma medications

To help people with asthma breathe normally, doctors usually prescribe maintenance medications to reduce the risk of attacks and "rescue" or emergency medications to help air flow more freely during an attack.

There are medications that doctors usually prescribe to treat asthma like:

- **Anti-inflammatory agents**—These include cromolyn or nedocromil, medications distributed through an inhaler to stop inflammation in the lungs and help prevent it.
- **Corticosteroids**—These steroids come in inhaler, liquid, tablet or injected forms. They decrease airway inflammation and swelling and reduce mucus production in the bronchial tubes. Doctors usually prescribe corticosteroid inhalers for patients with daily, moderate-to-severe asthma symptoms, while the oral form is usually limited to patients with severe asthma.
- **Bronchodilators**—Available in inhaled, tablet, capsule, liquid or injected forms, these are generally used as "rescue medications" to open up the bronchial tubes so that more air can flow through. One kind, salmeterol, is combined with antiinflammatory medication for maintenance in controlling asthma symptoms.
- **Antileukotrienes**—As the name indicates, these oral medications fight leukotrienes, the chemicals that cause airway inflammation. They are used to treat chronic asthma.

Controlling asthma triggers

People with asthma must know which triggers cause their attacks and learn how to avoid them, if possible. There are a number of precautions that people with asthma or their families can take to help avoid the triggers.

The bedroom is particularly important because of the amount of time spent sleeping close to many things that can cause attacks.

Dust mites thrive in soft bedroom materials like pillows, mattresses and drapes. These microscopic organisms give off particles that cause allergic reactions when inhaled. Decreasing the number of dust mites to which people with asthma are exposed may help control asthma attacks. Covering pillows and mattresses, replacing drapes with plastic or vinyl blinds and removing rugs and carpets from the bedroom provide a barrier between the dust mites and the person with asthma.

Remove things that will collect dust in the bedroom. Remove knickknacks and keep the walls and floors as clean as possible. Stuffed animals should be removed from the bedroom. If a child with asthma wants to play or sleep with a stuffed toy, frequently wash the toy in hot water.

No pets allowed

As much as possible, don't have pets at home, or at the very least keep them out of the bedroom. Cats, dogs and birds cause allergy to many people.

Eliminating mold throughout the home can also help control asthma attacks. Ideally, people with asthma should not have bedrooms on the basement level where mold will likely thrive because of the humid environment.

Allergy to cockroaches is another significant risk factor for asthma. To get rid of them, practice hygiene like maintaining the cleanliness of kitchens and bathrooms where the insect frequents. Regularly vacuum places where you more likely leave food crumbs, like the living room (when watching television).

Breast feeding helps prevent asthma in kids

NEW YORK—Breast is really best.

Researchers say mother's milk may help protect newborns and young children from developing asthma.

In a study on 2,000 Canadian mothers, Doctors Teresa To and Sharon Dell of the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto found out that breastfeeding duration appeared to play a significant role in blocking the development of asthma. Babies who had been breastfed for at least nine months appeared to gain protection against the disease.

However, the researchers pointed out that more than 40 percent of the babies studied had been breastfed for less than two months, or not at all.

"Breastfeeding duration depends on the family and depends on the child, but from a public health standpoint we have shown that if you breastfeed your baby for more than nine months the effect of reducing the risk of asthma is very, very good," To said.

But she said that because breastfeeding for that length of time is "not always feasible" for various reasons, "a reasonable recommendation would be to breastfeed your baby for at least four to six months. That might be a more achievable goal."

Six percent of children studied had some form of asthma, the researchers reported in the Archives of Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine, and almost one in four had a history of wheezing. While wheezing is an asthma symptom, it is not always associated with the disease.

Asthma remains an incurable chronic illness, and death from the disease is highest among children aged 1 to 4.

The researchers found that infant or childhood asthma was associated with several risk factors, including having parents with asthmatic conditions, having parents who smoked before or after the child's birth, being premature, having low birth weight and being a male child. *Reuters*

ASK THE DENTIST

PAUL R. DE CASTRO, DMD

Whitening dark tooth

I HAD a root canal done years ago and now the tooth has turned dark gray. Can I whiten it without a jacket crown?

—Ralph

Teeth that have undergone root canal tend to discolor. They could turn dark gray or dark brown because blood cells have been prevented from circulating after cleaning out the nerve. Your dentist can do a painless procedure without using anesthesia. He will open your tooth and apply a sealer on top of your root canal filling. A bleach solution is deposited in the tooth and this is also sealed so that it does not leach out of the tooth. I have seen very white results in just two days.

* * *

Dr. De Castro, a UP College of Dentistry graduate, is a cosmetic and general dentist licensed in the Philippines and the United States. Questions are welcome at dentalqs@yahoo.com.

Water meter calculations and other concerns

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

THERE exists no doubt that math is indispensable in daily life. Yet even simple situations sometimes leave the best of us fazed. From Ed Guevara [edguevara@hotmail.com] comes a common conundrum:

I have four tenants with four water meters. I don't have an MWSS connection so I have a 1,000-gallon overhead tank and I just purchase water at P130 per 500 gallons. To charge them for the water they consume, I add the total amount of water consumed in cubic meters of the four tenants (present reading minus past reading) in a month. Then I divide it by the total number of water deliveries for the month (A). To get the amount paid by tenant No. 1, I use this formula:

(Present reading - past reading for the month)/ A = amount x P130.

Then I follow the same formula to get the amounts to be paid by the rest of the tenants. Is there an easier way of doing this? Can't I just have a fixed multiplier that I can use to get the cubic meters used by a tenant in a month? (Example: present reading - past reading = amount to be paid by the tenant for the water consumed).

Praying for your urgent reply, have a nice day.

The only item I do not understand in your formula is A, the total number of water deliveries for the month. (What does this stand for?) I don't know if you will charge for labor (your labor) or whatever other service costs the tenants will accrue. Now if you do not charge at all for anything extra aside from the water, then a simple proportion will do. For instance, for tenant No. 1, denote his water consumption for the month by X, which is present reading (this month) - past reading (last month). Of course, make sure to convert X into gallons. If 500 gallons of water costs P130, then for X gallons of water, we have this ratio:

P130 / 500 = cost of X gallons / X gallons

This equation becomes: 130 X / 500. Your multiplier then is a constant (130 / 500), while the variable X stands for the number of gallons consumed in a month. You can use this for the other tenants.

* * *

Freddie Michael T. Gentallan of Paref-Springdale School Inc., J. Solon St., Lahug, Cebu City, has the following query.

I work as a staff in a school here in Cebu, and I have loved reading your articles since I was in college. I have bought some of your books (collections of some of your articles). I would like to thank you for inspiring me to love Math (with a capital M) throughout these years, though I admit that I am not an expert or a genius in Math.

I would like to inquire if you are aware of local science or math clubs that I could get in touch with. I am interested in putting up one here in our school, and I need the advice and guidance of older groups who have already done it. Thank you.

You are welcome, and thank you for your support through the years. I am glad that you treat math as an ally, not a foe. I also commend you for putting up a math/science club in Springdale, and I believe our youth need utmost encouragement and exposure to these fields.

Almost every school I know has a math and a science club and I believe most of them started from scratch—as in, get the word out and invite members. I don't really think you need much advice in doing so—the most important thing is to get moving. Why don't you invite students who are interested in math and science, talk to them about forming a club, make sure they have a regular place to meet (perhaps even serve snacks)? You can go about stocking the clubroom with books (such as mine, thank you for your patronage), newspaper articles, etc. If you can have access to a computer, so much better. There are literally millions of math sites on the Net, and many are excellent. Make sure to choose school-based sites—you may even link up with other math clubs out there.

If you are still hesitant, I suggest you get in touch with schools near your area. I am sure there are many Cebu City schools with existing math clubs. (How about your own high school?) You can get tips from them.

I am interested in knowing how your enterprise develops. Do update me on the progress of your math-science club. Good luck.

* * *

From a student, Lorraine Lao (lorraine_l@lycos.com):

I am a high school freshman and I read your book, "Straight Talk on Everyday Mysteries." I found it so interesting that I shared it with my whole class. Can you suggest other interesting books, and their authors, particularly books on trivia and facts that are never heard or known before? Thanks.

Thank you for sharing (and publicizing) my book to your class. I am glad you enjoyed it. As for trivia books, there exist many in bookstores, such as the Reader's Digest hardbound publications. I have two of them, "Strange Stories and Amazing Facts 1 and 2," but looking at their catalog, I know they have many more. There are also lots of websites on this—just make sure that your references can be trusted. Good luck.

Modern incinerators still linked to cancer

BY RAFAEL R. CASTILLO, MD

MEDICAL FILES

OVER 300 studies conducted worldwide have shown links between garbage incineration and serious health concerns, including mortality from various cancers. According to environmental experts, even so-called modern incinerators still pose significant health hazards.

Research has demonstrated that populations residing near incinerators are exposed to chemicals through inhalation of contaminated air or by the consumption of contaminated agricultural and dairy products such as vegetables, milk and eggs from the contaminated areas. Some of the emitted chemicals have been proven to cause cancer in humans.

Food contamination

Many highly toxic substances emitted from waste incinerators (including dioxins, furans, cadmium, lead and mercury) are known to disrupt the body's hormonal (endocrine), immune and reproductive systems as well as cause cancers. These chemicals can enter our bodies when we breathe in polluted air, or when we eat food that has been contaminated. For example, these chemicals can settle on grass, which is eaten by cows. When we drink cows' milk or eat beef, these chemicals enter our bodies. Skin contact with contaminated soil is also another way of getting the toxic chemicals.

The Guardian (London) has reported that dioxin has been found in a certain European country's cheeses and butter a few years ago at levels exceeding safety standards. The National Center for Independent Information on Waste, a private organization in this European country where incinerators are used, also revealed that a specific municipal incinerator in the country has contaminated cows' milk at what they believe is the highest dioxin level ever measured in milk in the country's history.

The major route of dioxin ingestion is in animal fat foods (milk, eggs, animal flesh), although plant deposition and inhalation contribute small amounts. Dioxins have also been reported to contaminate herbicides widely sprayed along highways and railroad right-of-ways. Nonetheless, cows' milk contaminated with dioxin near municipal solid waste incinerators is a more imminent source.

Impact on human health

In a recent study published in the prestigious medical journal Lancet, evidence was given on the hazards of living near incinerators. The study highlighted the fact that children living near waste incinerators matured sexually at an older age and that the testicular volume was smaller in affected boys. Another ecological study found stomach and lung cancers to be elevated in communities near municipal solid waste incinerators in United Kingdom.

Environmental watchdog Greenpeace International also released a comprehensive report titled "State of Knowledge of the Impact of Waste Incinerators on Human Health," which points to strong scientific evidences that even the most modern incinerators release toxic substances, including cancer-causing dioxins. The report reveals that workers at incinerator plants and people living in nearby communities are exposed to a wide range of potential health impacts and that the resulting pollution is not limited to air emissions but also to toxic ash that risks contaminating the soil and ground water reservoirs.

The Greenpeace report shows links between waste incinerators and mortality due to various cancers, as well as a higher incidence of lung disease, sarcoma, congenital malformations and immune system depression. The book consolidates over 300 studies and research papers that have focused on the impact of incineration on human health. The book looks both at studies conducted on incinerator workers, as well as on populations living adjacent to incinerators.

According to the report, incinerator workers are more likely to die from lung and stomach cancers, and heart disease than average members of the population. In addition they are more likely to suffer from increased skin problems, decreased liver function and increased allergic diseases. People living in the vicinity of incinerators have an increased chance of dying from lung and liver cancers. In addition, they are more likely to suffer from soft tissue and laryngeal cancers, lung diseases and increased congenital malformations.

ILLUSTRATION: JED ESTRADA

Numerous studies, Greenpeace says, confirm that a typical incinerator releases a cocktail of toxic chemicals, including dioxins, lead, cadmium, mercury and fine particles, into the atmosphere. However, there has been little follow-up investigation into the effects of the chemicals on people living near incinerators.

Worrying findings

Although the researches presented are not conclusive, the report contains "some worrying findings," including:

- A study conducted on 70 municipal waste incinerators in the United Kingdom operating between 1974 and 1987, and 307 hospital waste incinerators from 1953 to 1980, identified a two-fold increase in the cancer deaths in children living nearby. These results were consistent with a second study in 1998 and 2000, showing increased child cancers for hospital incinerators and large-scale, high-temperature combustion industries.
- A 1996 study on residents living "close" to a municipal solid waste (MSW) incinerator in an unnamed urban area in Italy found a 6.7-fold increase in deaths from lung cancer.
- A 1989 study on people working at a Swedish MSW incinerator between 1920 and 1985 found a 3.5-fold increase in deaths from lung cancer, and a 1.5-fold increase in deaths from cancer of the esophagus. The same 1989 study also found an excess of ischemic heart disease, especially in workers with more than 40 years exposure.
- A recent study on 14 million people living within 7.5 km of two MSW incinerators in the United Kingdom found a 37-percent increase in mortality from liver cancer, although social deprivation "could not be totally ruled out as a confounder."

Potentially hazardous

The Greenpeace report also argues that incinerators do not make waste disappear, they simply reduce it to ash and atmospheric emissions, both of which are potentially hazardous. Incinerators have been shown to produce dangerous ash. Fly ash, collected by the incinerator's air filter system, and bottom ash collected in the furnace are more toxic than the original waste which went into the incinerator. Thus incinerator ash and wastewater must be safely disposed of and properly treated in a landfill site, which may not be scrupulously done in most instances.

Greenpeace says that it is often falsely argued that "new or modern" incinerators that were built or upgraded after laws came into force in 1996 to clean up incinerators are far superior to older plants and eliminate many health concerns. Modern incinerators still emit large quantities of toxic chemicals into the air and although reductions of some emitted compounds have been achieved, these are merely transferred to ashes, which are dumped in landfills, where the chemicals may leach out, the environmental organization says. Some incinerators have been mixing the toxic waste ashes with building aggregates to be used in road building, leaving a toxic heritage for future generations, it adds.

Another argument against incineration by environmental advocates is that it does not encourage waste reduction. Incinerators require a minimum amount of waste to be delivered each day in order to remain operational. This is considered by environmental experts as a deterrent to waste minimization.

Incinerators are also extremely expensive to install and run. Incinerators provide little employment opportunities for the large capital investment needed. Much local public money leaves the community and is paid into the hands of large private sector and or multinational companies to operate the incinerators. In contrast to incineration, separating and recycling waste provide opportunities for employment of local people, and money so spent remains in the community.

As mounting scientific evidence reveals the health hazards presented to communities surrounding incinerators, Greenpeace and other environmental advocates urgently appeal that commitment to safeguard environmental safety from the political and private sectors be matched with actions to replace hollow conviction and empty promises.

(Medical files is based on the case histories of actual patients. Aside from the medical information, it stresses the socio-psychological impact of disease on the patient. Dr. Castillo is a past president and current chair of the Specialty Board of Adult Cardiology of the Philippine Heart Association/Philippine College of Cardiology. For comments or inquiries, e-mail raffymd@i-manila.com.)

Human cloning not just around the corner

BY MASSIE K. SANTOS
Contributor

THREE months ago, a group of doctors announced that they planned to produce the first human clone by the end of the year. Worldwide reaction ranged from cautious support to outrage, opposition, panic and hysteria. But after several nations banned human cloning and the United States decided to limit research to only 60 stem cell lines, nothing more was heard about the plan and people found other things to occupy their attention.

On Nov. 25, Dr. Michael West, head of the Advanced Cell Technology (ACT) company in Massachusetts, announced that they had succeeded in cloning a human embryo. Once again the public outcry was tremendous. People talked about stem cell research once more, governments all over the world condemned the research and the Vatican expressed its disapproval.

And some scientists questioned whether anything significant had actually happened.

Six-celled embryo

The ACT says it cloned the embryo through somatic cell nuclear transfer, also known as human therapeutic cloning. In this method, DNA from adult human cells—in this case, the skin cells of paralyzed medical doctor Judson Somerville—is placed into human egg cells whose nuclei had been removed. The egg cell was then allowed to develop into a six-celled embryo, which the ACT says occurred on Oct. 13.

Until this point, no one had thought it possible that adult cells could be used to generate clones. The focus had always been on the use of embryonic stem cells in research studies and the implantation of cloned embryos into wombs.

While several nations have laws preventing any work on human cloning, there are currently no laws that prevent a cloned baby from being born. There are also no laws against the somatic cell nuclear transfer procedure, which had long been advocated in place of embryonic stem cell research since the donors were adults and not fetuses.

These may change in light of the recent development however, and this news distresses not only scientists working on techniques to help patients with genetic disorders, but the patients and their families as well.

Hope through stem cells

Stem cell research has provided several rays of hope to patients with Parkinson's, Alzheimer's, blood disorders and other diseases.

Back in April, Kiminobu Sugaya of the University of Illinois in Chicago showed that the memories of aging rats improved when they were injected with a solution of embryonic stem cells.

In August, Dr. John McDonald, director of the Spinal Cord Injury Unit at the Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, Missouri, gave rats a spinal cord injury similar to that of Christopher Reeve's and injected them with embryonic stem cells. Six weeks later, the rats were walking normally again.

And Dan Kaufman's team at the University of Wisconsin medical school announced in September that it had been able to turn stem cells into blood cells in the laboratory.

While there were no clinical trials for any of these findings, and there aren't likely to be any in the next decade or so, the experiments have proven that stem cell research is the key to gene therapy, and this information provides millions of people with hope.

Gene therapy

Dr. West insists that the ACT was founded not to clone humans, but to manipulate the genes of animals to develop gene therapy techniques for humans. He has himself spoken about the dangers of cloning, saying it was unsafe for both fetus and mother. Dr. West says his company has taken a big step forward in the field of regenerative medicine.

Though the somatic cell nuclear transfer technique is utilized for both gene therapy and human cloning, the ACT only does the former.

The main question then is whether or not the ACT's data can be trusted. Some scientists have questioned the work and its results, which were published in Scientific American and in an online medical journal rather than in a reputable scientific journal where other scientists review submissions and check the experiments, the data and the conclusions to establish the validity of the work.

Two questions

In the case of the ACT finding, researchers from the American Society of Cell Biology and at Johns Hopkins University are questioning two items the public may not have been told about.

First is the fact that the DNA used was taken from both a man (Somerville's skin cells) and a woman (cumulus cells which are found in ovaries and which serve to nourish the eggs) and then inserted into the eggs. Was the second person's DNA really necessary, and how did that mixture affect the life span of the resulting embryos?

The second point, which scientists find more telling, is that the embryos that were formed in the ACT labs only lived a few hours each, and only one of those made it to the six-cell stage. They do2n't seem to have been able to reproduce that result since.

Despite all the media hype, the truth of the matter is that human cloning isn't just around the corner. And it looks like that a cloned human baby won't be born before New Year's Day anytime this decade, as what some scientists have been claiming.

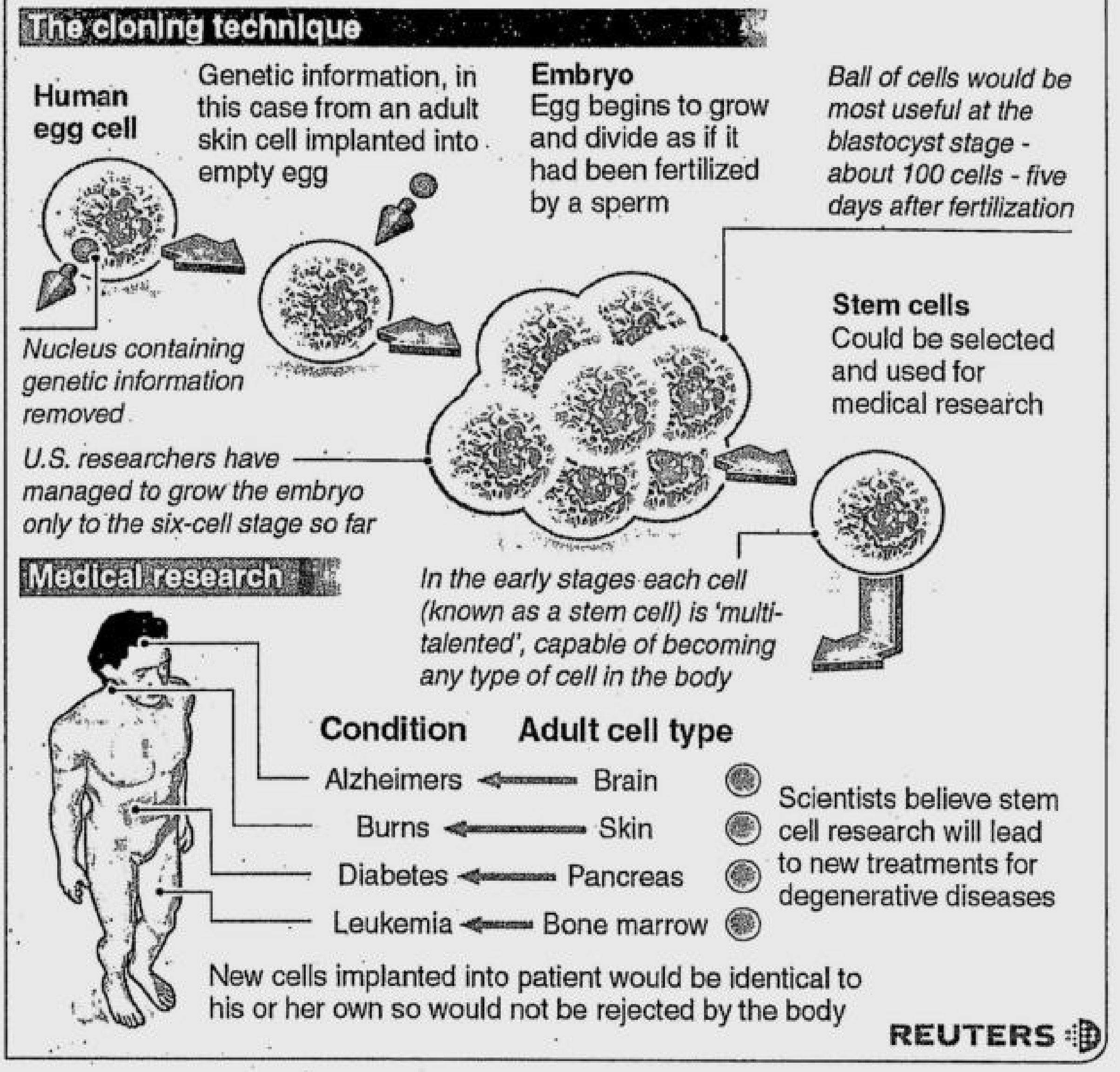
And nobody will be replacing God or the cosmic forces as the creator of life anytime soon either.

(Massie K. Santos has a bachelor's degree in Molecular Biology and Biochemistry from the Wesleyan University, Connecticut.)

STEM CELL MILESTONE

The announcement by a U.S. company that it has cloned a human embryo for the first time has set off a heated debate on the ethics of the research

Biotechnology company Advanced Cell Technology Inc. based in Massachusetts, said the research was aimed not at creating a human being but mining the embryo for stem cells to treat diseases ranging from Parkinson's to diabetes


The cloning technique
Human egg cell
Genetic information, in this case from an adult skin cell implanted into empty egg
Embryo
Egg begins to grow and divide as if it had been fertilized by a sperm
Ball of cells would be most useful at the blastocyst stage - about 100 cells - five days after fertilization
Nucleus containing genetic information removed
Stem cells
Could be selected and used for medical research
U.S. researchers have managed to grow the embryo only to the six-cell stage so far
Medical research
In the early stages each cell (known as a stem cell) is 'multi-talented', capable of becoming any type of cell in the body
Scientists believe stem cell research will lead to new treatments for degenerative diseases
New cells implanted into patient would be identical to his or her own so would not be rejected by the body
REUTERS

Condition	Adult cell type
Alzheimers ←	Brain
Burns ←	Skin
Diabetes ←	Pancreas
Leukemia ←	Bone marrow

ReachOut launches new contraception media campaign

REACHOUT Foundation International recently launched a national radio and PR campaign to promote modern methods of contraception, in support of the government's family planning program.

Funded by David and Lucille Packard Foundation, the campaign supports the Philippine Family Planning Program, with emphasis on respect for Filipino culture and values, as well as equality between men and women.

Says ReachOut managing director Jomar Fleras: "We fully back the ultimate goal of putting people at the center of development as espoused during the International Conference on Population and Development. This campaign also supports the government program which has since been refocused from a demographically d2riven program to one that promotes family planning as a health intervention with special attention to women and children."

The campaign, now on its third year, also aims to yield improvements in the general health of women and children and in attaining their desired fertility so that population growth will eventually match economic growth.

For this segment, celebrity couple Albert and Liezl Martinez once again lend their support. The husband and wife team was already featured in past ReachOut past TV ads and they proved to be effective and successful.

"It's because Albert and Liezl really practice family planning and people see them as good role models of responsible parenthood," Fleras explains.

Last year, this project received the Global Media award for Excellence in Best Commercial Advertising Campaign from the Washington, D.C.-based Population Institute. About 18 radio public service announcements (PSAs) have already been produced in support of the campaign, tapping credible personalities such as Tiya Dely Magpayo of dzRH, Dr. Lea Damaso of Nueva Vizcaya, Tiya Evelyn of Iloilo and Dr. Lourdes Rosaroso of Cebu. More radio ads will be aired focusing on topics such as IUD, ligation, natural family planning, breastfeeding, vasectomy, pills, condom and injectable. These will be aired in at least 200 radio stations nationwide in five dialects.

BOEHRINGER INGELHEIM

Saving lives for 35 years in RP or more than a century all over

BY VICENTE B. FOZ
Contributor

BOEHRINGER Ingelheim Philippines Inc. (Biphi), one of the country's leading pharmaceutical companies, recently celebrated its 35th anniversary of making a difference in the lives of Filipinos. Its mother company, Boehringer Ingelheim, began operating some 116 years ago.

Biphi is one of the top 10 pharmaceutical companies in the country. Its unwavering commitment is to develop truly innovative drugs for the treatment of various diseases, like hypertension, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and osteoarthritis.

Boehringer Ingelheim is a multinational firm based in Ingelheim, Germany. It all started in the summer of 1885 when Albert Boehringer, the company's founder, acquired a small tartaric acid factory in the lower Ingelheim am Rhein region of Germany. Since then, it has fully evolved to become a truly international player in the pharmaceutical industry with operations in more than 60 countries. The company mainly manufactures and provides pharmaceutical products, i.e. prescription medicines and consumer health care products but it is also involved in animal health.

Early success

In the Philippines, it started as just a division of Muller and Phipps, a distributor of pharmaceutical products. BI Philippines' early success can be attributed to Heinrich Merkt, its first general manager. He introduced and strictly enforced a "no monkey business" policy in the company and emphasized among its employees core values such as honesty, integrity and compliance with the requirements of the law.

Through the years, BI continuously introduced breakthrough products that have saved lives and improved the quality of lives of people. Examples of these are the recombinant tissue plasminogen activator (Actilyse) used for myocardial infarction, telmisartan (Micardis) for hypertension, meloxicam (Mobic) for osteoarthritis and ipratropium bromide (Atrovent) for the smoker's lung (COPD)

Priority

Boehringer Ingelheim has set research and development as its priority with the goal of submitting one innovative drug every year for registration in the three world regions. This goal is reached by increasing its efficiency in the drug-development process, using modern technologies such as genomics, bioinformatics, combinatorial chemistry and high throughput screening. More than 6,000 people are working at the various medical research and development centers of BI.

As a corporate partner of the medical community, BI, through its foundation, has supported the specialist training of physicians coming from the provinces. This program has helped spread specialist care in the different areas outside Metro Manila. The foundation has also provided funds for the conduct of health researches in major health institutions in the country.

By recognizing team achievements and individual brilliance, BI Philippines has also enriched the potentials and capabilities of its human resources. Through the years, the company has encouraged its employees to develop their skills, thereby being better equipped to realize both organizational and individual goals.

Value in innovation

The company ground rules further support its employees by encouraging them to take responsibility for their actions as well as instill fairness and mutual respect in the workplace. Employees are rewarded with competitive salaries and benefits, and a supportive work environment which provides opportunities for ample professional growth and development.

"I believe that the company's most important contribution for the past 35 years, aside from the medical innovations, is its excellent relationship with its people who are more than willing to stay in the company," says Stefan Killian, the current Biphi president. According to him, one of the reasons for the company's success in the Philippines is the value that the firm gives to all its employees.

Now, more than ever, Biphi will continue to uphold the principles that have fortified it through the years. Most of all, it will strive to gain greater "value in innovation," which is the company's battlecry worldwide. In the coming years, it is expected to introduce more new products that will certainly improve the lives of Filipinos.

Protecting your heart this season

BY CHARLES E. BUBAN

ILLUSTRATION: JED ESTRADA

'TIS the season of lechon, crispy pata, sisig, lots of cookies and candies and overflowing beers. It begins this month and doesn't end until the first of January's leftovers are thrown in the garbage bin. Indeed, this is a time when we lift our self-imposed limitations and allow ourselves to eat a lot of high-fat celebration foods.

Ignoring the temptation will never be easy, as our calendar will be filled up with invitations for parties, night-outs or drinking sessions. But if our only reason is our bulging waistline, we should also consider the other thing that increases every time we indulge on these bacchanalian pursuits—the chance of getting a heart disease.

Lifestyle modification

A heart disease is not something you get overnight. Factors leading to a failing heart are incurred over a period of time. By the time one suffers from a heart attack, reversing the damage done would now be next to impossible.

"Ninety percent of heart diseases are no longer curable—you can only control the progression of the disease or delay the development of complication. In controlling, we mean ceaseless medications and continuous management of diet and lifestyle," explains Dr. Adolfo Bellosillo, president of the Foundation for Lay Education on Heart Diseases.

This is why the group of Bellosillo is advocating for preventive cardiology by promoting lifestyle modification, which can effectively check a progression of heart disease. "Much of the concentration nowadays is in terms of curing—looking at the latest surgical techniques or creating breakthrough hypertension drugs," notes Bellosillo. "Even heart conventions done worldwide spent 90 percent of their topics on these subjects. Yet, hypertension or coronary heart disease remains high in mortality surveys."

Educating patients

When before heart patients are kept in the dark about their condition out of fear of aggravating the person's delicate condition, doctors now believe patients play a vital role in the management of their disease. "There is nothing like a well-educated patient who really cooperates and is an active partner in the management of his disease," believes Bellosillo.

Things like choosing the right food to eat, checking of blood pressure and cholesterol level every so often, getting into some physical fitness program, managing stress can do a lot in the prevention of heart disease.

"In every talk that we hold, we always include topics like dietary counseling, information about cholesterol and hypertension, how to recognize if you're already having a heart attack—subjects that are so close to the audience's heart and we discuss them in easily understood language," informs Bellosillo.

Suggestions

How can one make it through all the festivities with their heart's health intact? Bellosillo offers some simple advice for getting through the feasting season:

- Build 30 minutes a day of physical activity into your routine, and make it a priority. Put on music and get people up and dancing.
- Walk briskly to burn extra calories while you shop or get somewhere.
- During parties, check out the buffet table before you dive in. Take small amount of dishes you really want.
- Avoid the feast-famine cycle—when you deprive yourself of all the foods you like, you are more likely to binge when confronted with them.
- Eat something healthy, like a piece of fruit, before going to a party to take the edge off your hunger.
- If you are hosting an event, why not change traditions and feed people healthful meals like serving low-fat menu?

"Controlling yourself entails a lot of determination but the reward is immeasurable," says Bellosillo. While diagnosis and medical and surgical treatment are obviously important, the prevention of the disease clearly makes the most sense.

Bellosillo's foundation is offering free lectures and seminars on preventive cardiology and provides for free services like blood pressure screening, blood examination for sugar, cholesterol and trygliceride and electrocardiogram to delegates. For requests, call up the FLEHD secretariat at 893-3724 or fax at 817-7393. You can also visit the FLEHD secretariat offices at Suite 604, Medical Towers, Makati City or 104 Herrera St., Legaspi Village, Makati City.

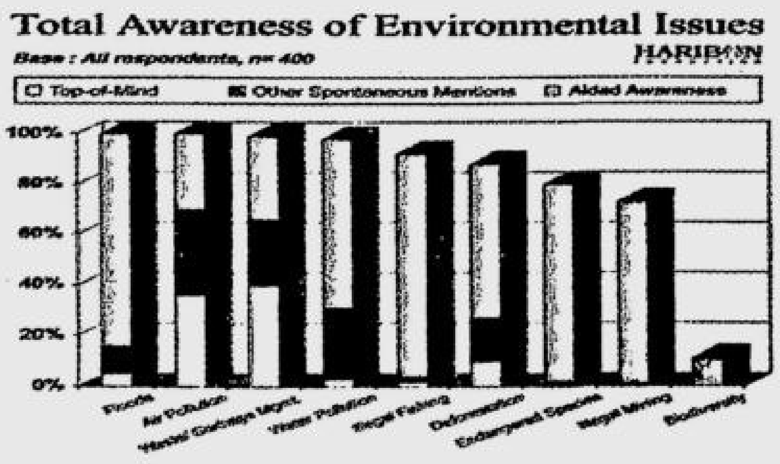
Getting rid of those excess pounds

A STUDY published in the New England Journal of Medicine early this year, offered Yuletide revelers some good—and some bad—news. According to Dr. Jack Yanovski, an obesity researcher at the National Institutes of Health, most people don't gain as much weight over the holidays as they think—an average person gains only about a pound during the period between Thanksgiving (Nov. 30) and New Year's Day.

"The bad news is that pound sticks around long after the holidays, and a pound a year over 20 years can really add up," said the doctor. The NIH study also found that the holidays posed an even greater challenge for people who were already overweight. They were more likely to gain more than five pounds, further increasing their health risks.

Such weight gain can lead to obesity, which is a risk factor for diabetes, heart diseases and various other health problems.

Since the holiday season also means staying indoors most of the time, people no longer exercise yet eat a lot of foods. Experts urge everyone to fit in exercise in their busy schedule, even if it's just a walk. "As long as you stay active, you don't have to forgo your holiday favorites. It's a matter of being reasonable," they advised.



How much do Filipinos know about their environment?

FOR YEARS, environmentalists worldwide have been doing a lot to raise awareness on and curtail the excessive exploitation of the environment. Yet, it appears that a great deal of work needs to be done if we were to properly and effectively preserve the environment.

A recent quantitative study on environmental awareness conducted among 400 Metro Manila respondents by the Haribon Foundation for the Conservation of Natural Resources, reveals alarming information indicating that Filipinos still have a low awareness for the environmental issues critical to our survival as a species.

Environmental issues

Respondents were asked to identify which environmental issues were important to them. Results of the study show that Filipinos are more aware of immediate problems that affect urban lives such as waste/garbage management (83 percent), air pollution (75 percent), floods (48 percent) and water pollution (37 percent).

Waste/garbage management and air pollution registered the highest mind share among respondents (around 4 out of 10) and reached spontaneous recall of around 70 percent. It further showed that environmental problems that are personally observed and experienced create the most impact on awareness.

Moreover, issues that are not directly observed and experienced registered the less impact. Just take into account the fact that a very slim margin of respondents only considered the problems of illegal fishing (7 percent) and endangered species (5 percent) as important. Even more disturbing is that O percent of the respondents thought about deforestation and biodiversity. This suggests that that there is minimal thought, concern or involvement given to these environmental concerns.

Interrelation

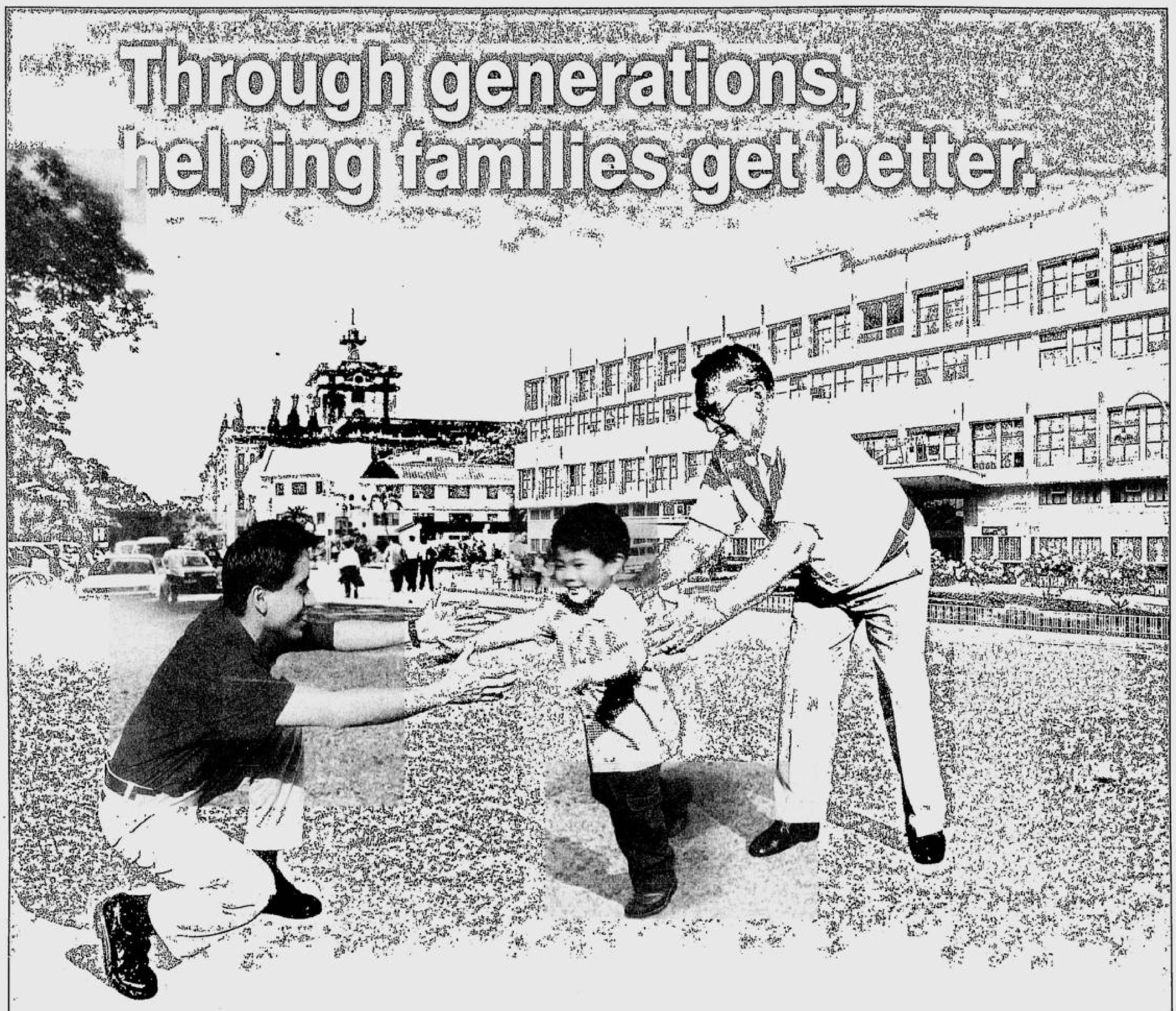
Furthermore, the study reveals that the respondents have no grasp of the interrelation of mankind's survival and biodiversity. Biodiversity is the variety of living things—including man—required to maintain the health of an ecosystem. Many still do not realize that if we don't preserve our country's biodiversity, we may end up with shortage of food, medicines, clothing and shelter. Proof that the respondents have a very low systemic understanding of the cause and effect of environmental issues and possess a superficial grasp of problems makes matters even worse.

For example, most of them attributed flooding to clogged gutters and not deforestation. Moreover, of the 67 percent that discussed endangered species, only 8 percent linked the problem to deforestation and coral reef destruction and only 10 percent that understood biodiversity mentioned its threat to the food chain.

The findings of this study are indeed disconcerting. After so many years of painstaking hard work and hard-nose advocacy, environmentalists are apparently still on the losing end in their battle to save our country's vital resources. Problems that run deeper than obvious lack of information remain a great challenge that environmentalists must hurdle.

In light of the research, Haribon has heightened its campaign for the protection of the 117 key conservation sites it has identified as critical to maintaining the sustainability of our basic needs. Haribon hopes to gain stronger participation from the public in its conservation efforts. These sites still contain significant populations of threatened animals and plants mostly found in the Philippines and nowhere else.

The Haribon Foundation may be reached at 925-3332, 4362756 or through their website at www.haribon.org.ph.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Treat
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Week

SATURDAY,
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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
C1
Saturday SPECIAL
NESTOR U. TORRE, Editor **EDMUND L. SICAM**, Associate Editor

Gratin of Mango

1/2	cup sugar, dissolved in 1/2 cup water
2	ripe, firm mangoes, peeled and halved
1	383g can NESTLÉ CREAM
1/4	cup brown sugar, mixed with
1/2	tsp ground cinnamon coarsely chopped walnuts or cashew nuts (optional)

Boil sugar and water for about 4 minutes. Add in sliced mangoes and simmer for 2 minutes. Turn off fire and let stand for about 3 hours. Drain mangoes thoroughly and arrange slices in individual oven-proof serving bowls or dishes. Pour NESTLÉ CREAM on prepared fruit and sprinkle sugar-cinnamon mixture. Broil about 4 minutes or until sugar melts. Sprinkle with chopped nuts to serve, if desired.

Watch out for next week's fruity treat!

Ryan Cayabyab is only Asian among Onassis Awards laureates

CAYABYAB. Won for "Misa 2000."

By Nestor U. Torre

LAST Nov. 25, we flew to Athens, Greece with Ryan and Emmy Cayabyab for the 2001 Onassis awards ceremonies for world-class excellence in the arts.

Only Asian winner

Ryan was the only Asian winner in the prestigious competition, placing second in the musical composition for dance category. There was no first prize awarded, and Ryan shared the second prize with the UK's Christopher Lyndon-Gee.

It was a hectic trip for us, since we had to be back in Manila by Nov. 29, and Greece is *so* far away by plane. Still, we made it a point to join Ryan and his modest "entourage" because we wanted to spread the good word about the important award he had won, which redounded not just to his honor, but to the Philippines' as well.

As some colleagues have told us, the country is in dire need of the psychological boost that

RYAN/p.C4

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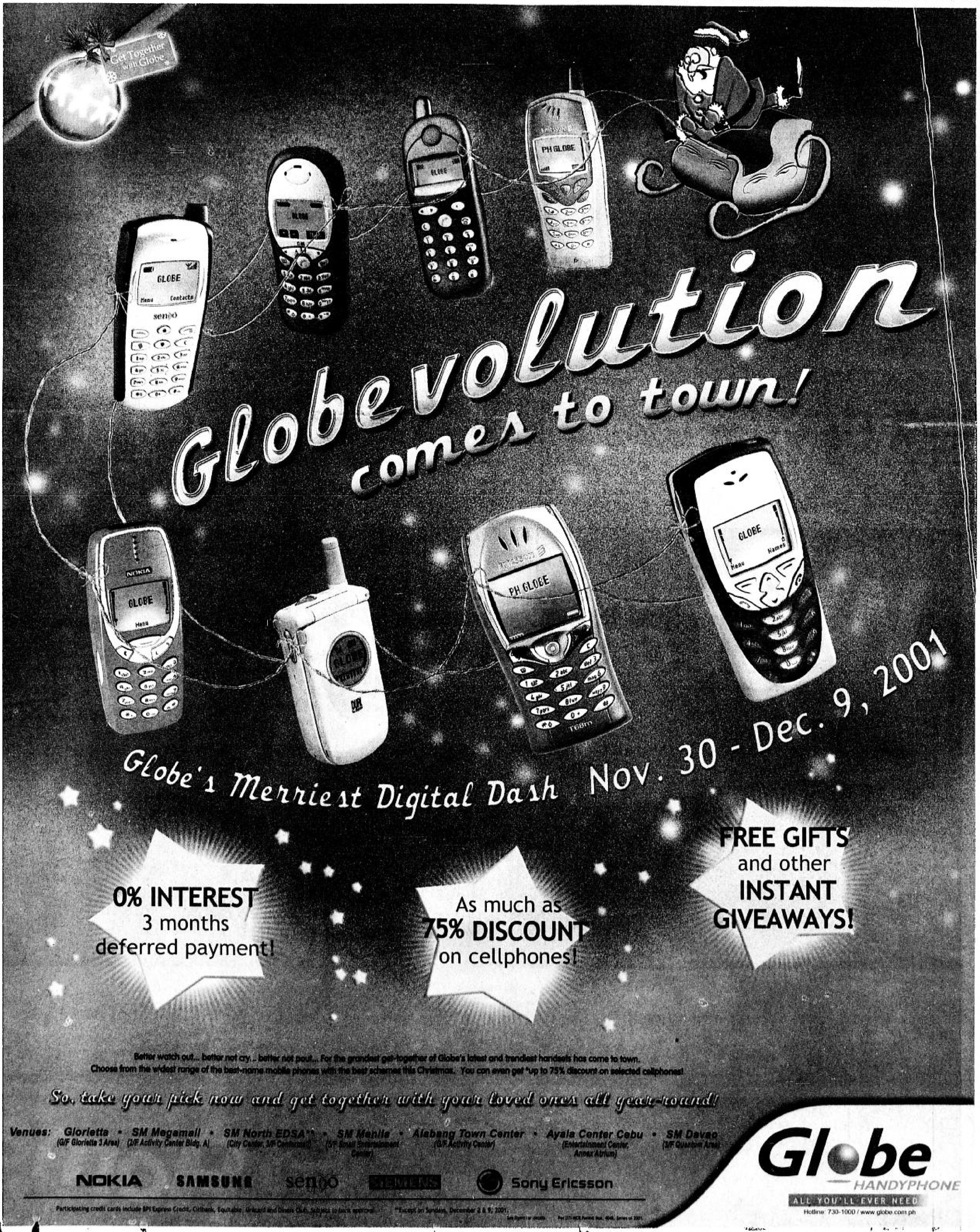

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Why Janet McBride quit show business

By Edmund L. Sicam

SHE was there to talk about her latest movie, "Burles King (Daw O...!)" FLT Films possible entry to the Metro filmfest, but since it was going to be her last (in a long time, anyway) interview zwith the press, most of the questions were about her sudden departure for Australia. Janet McBride, who impressed audiences with her performance as Dina Bonnevie's daughter in "Tanging Yaman" in last year's Metro Manila Film Festival, is turning her back on a flourishing career.

Her decision has bolstered the running gossip that she was pregnant by her boyfriend, DJ Moe, and was going abroad to have her baby. Q & A:

You're going to Australia today?

Yup.

Why *naman*?

Ayoko na mag-artista muna. Maybe in a few years, I'll come back.

Homesick

What made you decide?

Wala lang, I miss my family… I've been homesick everyday, for the past year. So I decided, before Christmas, I'll just go home…

I had a lot of fun in show biz, *kaya lang*, there are a lot of parts of show biz that I really don't like… like the intrigue.

Marami ng intrigue before, like about me and Moe Twister and then me and Ryan Agoncillo and everything, *nakakainis*. And then now, there's this thing that I'm pregnant *at aalis na ako… Sa akin, hindi naman totoo*, so I said, "stuff it, who cares?" *Nasaktan lang ako nung naniniwala na yung* family *ko* and friends *ko*. They're saying, *baka uuwi siya dahil buntis. Tinatanong na ako ng* mom *ko, ganoon.* So, it hurts me when they start believing the *tsismis*. I have to explain to my dad, "No, no, I'm not pregnant, if I was, you guys would be the first to know…"

Sabi pa ng iba, live *in daw kami ni* Moe… and then it was… *sino kaya ang ama*, si Ryan Agoncillo o si Moe Twister? *Siyempre*, *na*-hurt *ako*. *Ano ako*, slut?

Close friends

Won't you miss show biz?

I'm going to miss "Talk TV"—*sila yung naging* very close friends *ko*. I'll miss having fun and doing shows and pictorials. But I miss my family even more, that's why I'm more sad than anything else.

Everyone's saying *"sayang ka, sayang ang career mo"… hindi ko kasi lang talaga ma*-explain, *yung pagka*-homesick *ko*. My entire family is in another country. *Isipin mo, lahat sila, nasa ibang bansa, ikaw lang nag-iisa sa* strange country.

So what's the truth about you and Moe?

We're together, for sure. We've been together for two years. But I'm not pregnant.

MCBRIDE. No truth to rumor that she's pregnant.

How will your leaving affect your relationship?

Well, we haven't really talked about anything yet, *pero sana sumunod siya.*

Nothing definite

You haven't talked about anything yet?

Well, we have, but nothing definite. But hopefully, he'll follow. He's still here, he still does his radio and everything. *Yun pa lang.*

This will be your first long-distance relationship?

Yes.

Is he trustworthy?

Well, I've known Moe for three years. I think you've known him for less. I've known him romantically and as a friend, and as a colleague and acquaintance. So I think I have more say than you guys have when I say that he's very trustworthy.

So this movie you're doing, it's a comedy. What's it about?

Meron akong napakalaking crush *kay* Andrew E., *tagalinis siya ng banyo; pero ayaw niya sa akin*, he has a crush on Geneva Cruz. I try my best to get to know him, *ang dami kong* hints, super *akong halata, pero hindi niya ma*-gets. Eventually, he finds out *na ayaw sa kanya ni* Geneva, and finally, he falls for me.

Did you find it easier to do comedy than to do "Tanging Yaman"?

Mas enjoy *ako sa* comedy. Even sa "Talk TV," I'm always making jokes and being weird. *Mas* enjoy *ako sa ganoon* because I feel more comfortable. *Pero sa* "Tanging Yaman," *nag*-enjoy *ako kasi puro* English, *hindi ako nahirapan sa* script. And we went to the States, so *nag*-enjoy *ako. Pero* I think in general, comedy *talaga ang gusto ko.*

Back to school

What are you going to do when you go back?

I want to continue studying. This year, *nahirapan ako sa* studies *ko*. I was doing home study for two months. It was so boring, so I quit, and then I enrolled in the school at ABS-CBN Talent Center, *pero tinamad ako ulit.* I said to myself, if I'm going back to school, full time *dapat.*

More mature

You sound more mature now.

I guess it's because I'm independent. I have no choice but to be strong on my own. I don't have any family support. I can't ask my mom for money or allowance. I guess I've matured a lot because of that. And I don't have that many friends. It's just me, myself and I.

Do you think you'll ever come back?

You never know, I could be coming back in 15 years, or three… *baka lalaki na ako*, or something. I can't really say anything right now. But I'm not closing my doors. *Ang gusto ko lang ngayon makatapos ng* high school, at least.

Treasure trove of wit and wisdom

FACE TO FACE

Inday Badiday

I DON'T really know if it's true but I certainly can believe that the Philippines is the text capital of the world. If a special Olympics were held for the fastest, most prolific texter, the Philippine delegation is sure to romp off with the gold medal!

Modern gizmo

Just look around and see people, young and old alike, pounding away on the keys of this modern gizmo called the cellphone to compose and send all kinds of text messages to either friends or foes both near and far. And they do it everywhere—while walking on the street, driving a car, cooking lunch. I even have a friend who claims she can do it while asleep.

I admit, the first time I tried texting, I felt decidedly ancient. I mean, today's young people are so adept at it, while I struggle to understand the supposedly user-friendly procedures necessary to operate this sophisticated mode of communication.

Even now, when I can somehow already manage to compose my own messages or forward to friends the nice messages I receive from others, I sometimes still find myself totally clueless—like, for the life of me, I'm still completely at a loss about how to use graphics.

But this is not to say that I hate texting. In fact, I love it so much that, one time, I felt very sad when a day passed without anyone sending me a cute hello, or something. Of course, my daughter Klang had to explain to me that I received no messages that day not because nobody cared but because both my inbox and outbox were fully loaded. I needed to erase some messages, she said.

Gems of wisdom

But then, how could I bear to erase those wonderfully inspiring gems of wisdom? Expunging those inspiring, uplifting messages with just one push of the delete key seemed so heartless.

Indeed, through the years that I've been receiving and sending text messages, I have already collected quite a treasure trove of wit and wisdom. The uncanny thing about this is that, somehow, whenever I receive a particularly inspiring message, it is usually the most appropriate response to certain questions and feelings bugging me at that particular point in time.

Like, a certain sadness would cloud my eyes and a cheery note from my inbox would bring the sunshine in right away. Or, I'd be troubled and oppressed but just one inspiring word dried the tears even before they could stain my cheeks.

For some people, the thrill of texting is in exchanging tasteless, humorless sex jokes complete with lewd graphics. They sorely miss out on the joy that comes from the inspired wisdom of text messaging.

As I said, I collect these messages—and I'd like to share them with you. I'm sure a lot of them originated from Smart and Globe themselves to further encourage the text-crazy dolt to part with his peso—but there have also been many that, I'm sure, were originals. May they put a spring to your step, a smile to your lips and a twinkle to your eyes:

About life

"The secret of life is not just to live but, more importantly, to have something worthwhile to live for. We can only live once—but if we live right, once is enough."

"It's good to have money and the things money can buy. But it's also good to check once in a while and make sure you haven't lost the things money cannot buy. Like friends."

"Like birds, let us leave behind what we don't need to carry—grudges, sadness, pain, fears, regrets, anxieties. Fly light. You'll reach your destination sooner."

"Continue expanding your world. Never allow anyone to dictate how high you can fly or how loud you can roar—not even yourself. You are what others—or you—have limited yourself to be."

"Everything comes to those who wait. Thos who hurry may miss out on the best things that life can offer. Not all flowers bloom overnight."

"Don't allow anyone or anything to steal your joy away from you. Whatever happens, the decision to either remain whole or be destroyed is yours and yours alone."

"Learn to be content to be happy. When eagles fly, they soar to the highest peaks. But this doesn't mean that chickens are less happy than eagles."

"Cherish the people around you while you still have them, not when they are gone. Life can only be understood backwards but it should be lived forward."

About love

"Love is not a feeling. It is a decision. When love is a feeling, it is prey to the whims and caprices of time as well as the follies and foibles of human nature. But when love is a decision, it is strengthened by will, fortified by commitment and sustained by conviction."

"Love also quarrels. But it knows when. More importantly, it knows how. And always, it knows why."

"Your love for God is your best gift to your spouse. Your love for your spouse is your best gift to God."

"People are made to be loved; things are made to be used. The trouble with the world began when we started using people and loving things."

"Two people in love give each other the freedom to be imperfect, and allow the perfecting properties of that same love to work miracles."

"No greater pain is there than that inflicted by the one you love. But then, the more excruciating the pain, the more magnificent the proof of your love it becomes."

"Love is ageless, love is eternal. Love counts not the years, or the tears, or the fears. Love is forever young, happy and fearless."

"The opposite of love is not hate. It is selfishness. Love is not love until you give it away."

"Love is giving a total stranger the license to make your life perfect."

"Love heals. Love nurtures. Love completes. Love perfects. Love is the tool with which God moulds us to become the persons He has planned us to be from the beginning of time."

About God

"God will never leave you empty. He will replace everything you lost. When He asks you to put something down, it's because He wants you to pick up something better."

"God's purpose and design are behind every event. At times, what we consider to be a disaster is simply the hand of God rearranging and trimming our lives."

"Today is the answer to last night's prayer—to live for yet another day, recover wasted chances, fulfill one's dream in God's own perfect time."

"God sometimes delays His help to test our faith and energize our prayers. Our boat may be tossed by the waves while He sleeps but, most assuredly, He wakes before it sinks."

"God hears us when we pray not because we deserve it but because Christ has opened the way for us to talk directly to the Father."

"Wherever you are is the best place for you to be because God allowed you to be there. You don't have to know why. Just believe that he knows what's best for you."

"Don't ask God to change your children—but to grant you the grace to love them even when they don't change. Ultimately, it's your unchanging love that will change them."

"God sees us exactly as we are. He sees us perfectly and more truly than other people can and He loves us more than we deserve or can ever imagine!"

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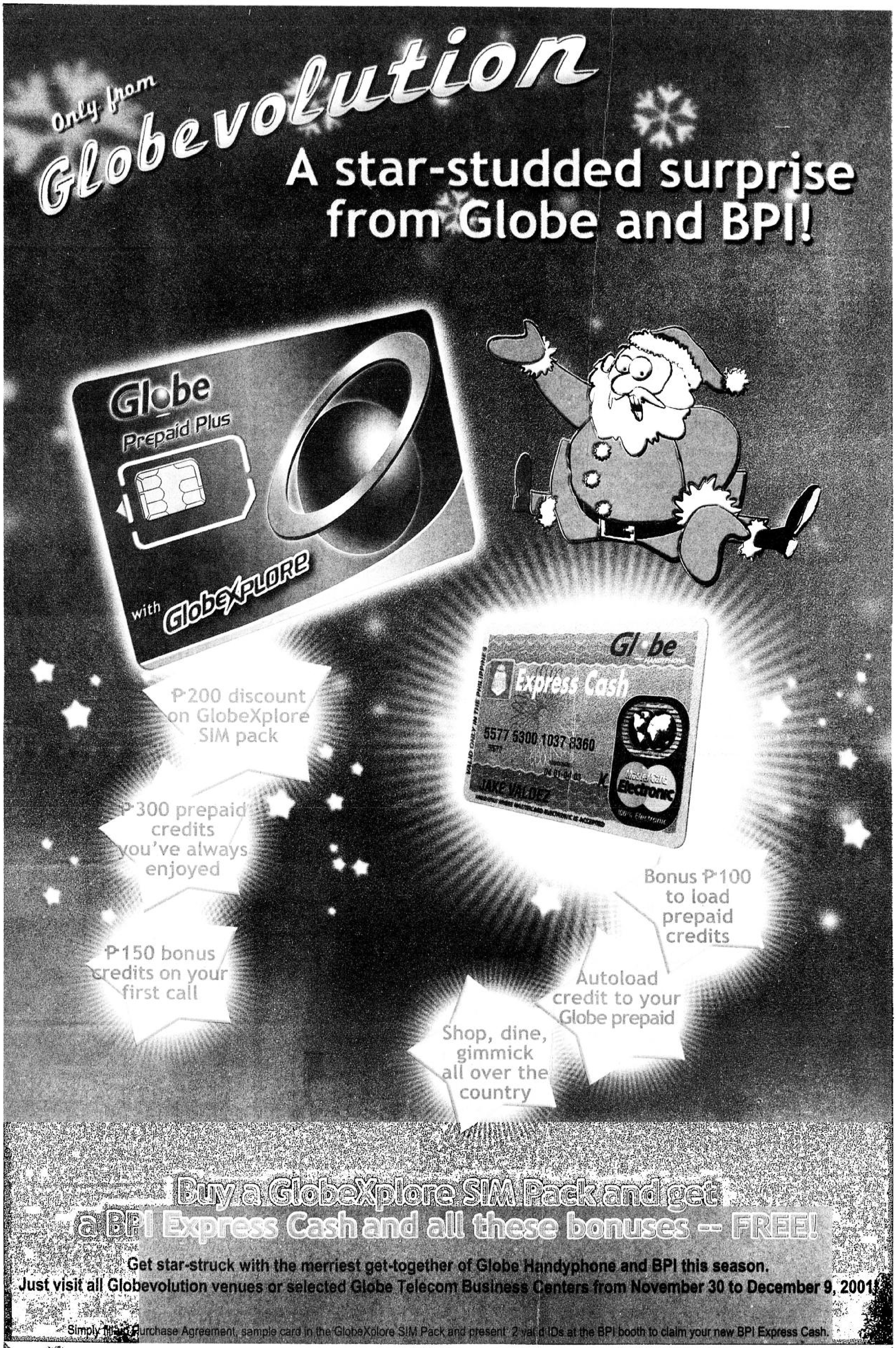
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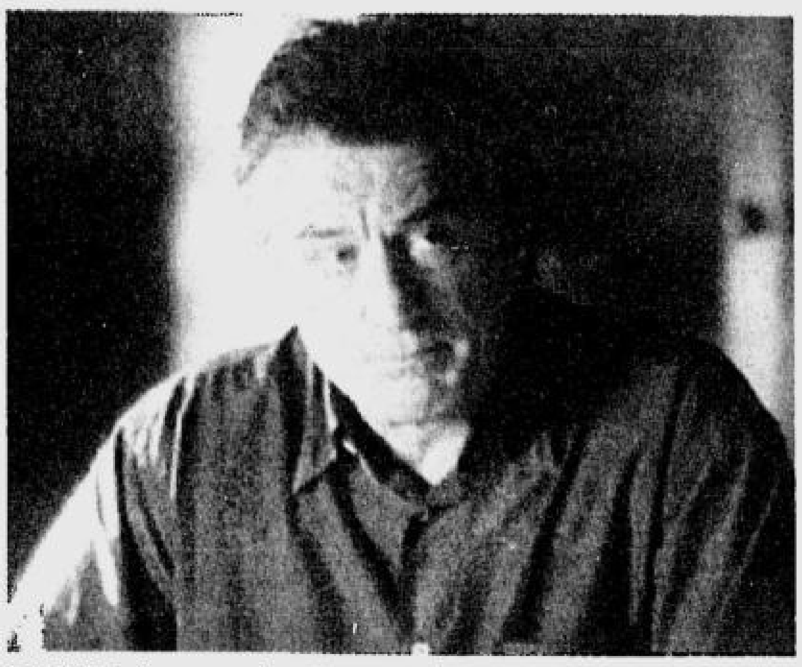
Three actor-filmmakers show the way



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FEW actors segue into direction or production with as much seamless ease as Orson Welles, Woody Allen and Warren Beatty. Three other thespians who have made significant contributions as filmmakers are Robert Redford, Robert De Niro and Ben Stiller.

Environmentalist

Redford has received international acclaim for his work as an actor, director and producer, as well as his efforts as a champion of independent films and as an environmentalist. He was honored with an Academy Award nomination for Best Actor for his performance in "The Sting." As director, he won an Academy Award, a Golden Globe Award and a Directors Guild of America for "Ordinary People," which marked his feature film directorial debut. In his newest film "The Last Castle," Redford stars as renegade General Irwin. Director Rod Lurie (The Contender) states, "I think Bob Redford is a natural leader and a man of enormous charisma and presence. Every word he says resonates."

For his part, Redford says, "(General Irwin) is a very interesting character—a military general who is court-martialed for violating the very code he always stood for. Because he accepts his guilt, he submits himself to the punishment of prison, where he meets Colonel Winter. The through-line of the piece is the contest between these two characters-one born to lead and the other born to want to lead which doesn't necessarily make you a leader. I thought that was good stuff."

Prolific career

Robert De Niro, on the other hand, launched his prolific motion picture career in Brian De Palma's "The Wedding Party" in 1969. By 1973, De Niro had twice won the New York Film Critics Award for Best Supporting Actor in recognition of his critically-acclaimed performances in "Bang The Drum Slowly" and Martin Scorsese's "Mean Streets."

In 1974, De Niro received an Academy Award for Best Supporting Actor for his portrayal of the young Vito Corleone in "The Godfather, Part II." In 1980, he won his second Oscar as Best Actor for his extraordinary portrayal of Jake La Motta in Scorsese's "Raging Bull."

De Niro takes pride in the development of his production company, Tribeca Productions, and the Tribeca Film Center, which he founded with Jane Rosentahl in 1988. Through Tribeca, he develops projects on which he serves in a combination of capacities, including producer, director and actor. Tribeca's "A Bronx Tale" marked De Niro's directorial debut.

In his upcoming film "The Score," De Niro opted to showcase his acting chops rather than his directorial mettle. He stars as Nick, a world-class thief who has evaded capture for 20 years by being very cautious. Having grown older, Nick is ready to become a law-abiding citizen and make a deeper commitment to his girlfriend for six years.

To ensure that their new life together will be a comfortable one, he agrees, against his better judgement, to take part in a last heist that tops anything he's done before.

Honesty

"There isn't a false beat in De Niro's performance," producer Gary Foster says. "He brings to it a sense of realism, authenticity and honesty. He could have played this role on its surface, but found a way to get into Nick's soul."

Ben Stiller is a relative newcomer, although he has done more work as actor than Redford and De Niro. In his latest film "Zoolander," Stiller wore two hats-that of lead actor and director. A veteran comic of stage, film and television, he went dramatic in "Permanent Midnight" by portraying a writer who lived the secret life of a heroin addict. He received further positive notice for his role in Neil LaBute's ensemble drama, "Your Friends and Neighbors."

Stiller made his feature motion picture directorial debut in 1994, with the critically acclaimed "Reality Bites," in which he also co-starred with Wynona Ryder, Janeane Garofalo and Ethan Hawke. His most recent directorial effort was "The Cable Guy," starring Jim Carrey and Matthew Broderick.

Devastating reality

In his latest work, Stiller plays the title character, Derek Zoolander, who is facing the devastating reality that he is no longer the world's No. 1 supermodel, and searches for a purpose in life.

Stiller explains: "We have fun with the fashion world in the movie, but in such a silly, cartoonish way, I don't think anybody could take it personally. For example, Details magazine was relevant because Derek considers it a much more news-oriented publication than Time. My hope was to make 'Zoolander' something you could relate to, even if you know nothing about the fashion world."

STILLER. Positive notice.

"You're kidding!

Your kids know more about Word than you do?"

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PHILIPPINES

Back-to-back concert at St. Cecilia

RUMANIAN violinist Alexandru Tomescu and pianist J. Greg Zuniega will perform in "Back-to-Back," a concert at St. Cecilia's Hall in St. Scholastica's College on Tuesday, Dec. 18, at 7:30 p.m. Masterpieces featured will be the Sibelius violin concerto in D minor, Tchaikovsky piano concerto in B flat minor and the Ravel Sonata for violin and piano.

Regular visitor

An artist of international acclaim, Tumescu is a regular visitor to the Philippines and is well-loved by the Filipino audience not only for his artistry, but also for his interpretation of Filipino works.

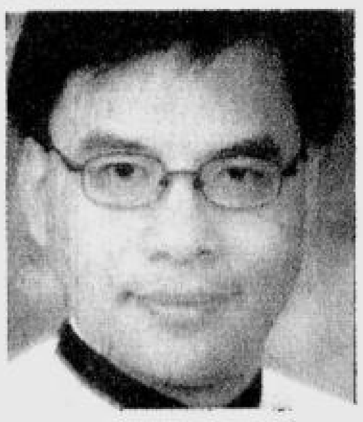
Concert pianist Zuniega—who is also a chamber musician accompanist, soloist and teacher—graduated valedictorian of his batch from the Philippine High School for the Arts. He pursued further studies at the Tchaikovsky Moscow State University and the Royal College of Music in London, where he was awarded the Tagore gold medal for excellence by the Queen Mother. A co-founder and arranger of the Battig Trio, Zuniega has performed in various European cities.

Guest conductor

Assisting Tumescu and Zuniega is the Manila Symphony Orchestra, under the baton of guest conductor Maestro Regalado Jose.

The concert is being organized by Counterpoint Promotions with the National Philharmonic Society and the Manila Symphony Orchestra Foundation II. Tickets prices are at P300, P400, P700, P1,000, and P1,200. For inquiries, call 891-5903 or 817-3509.

TUMESCU. Rumanian violinist



ZUNIEGA. Concert pianist.

Ryan Cayabyab is only Asian among Onassis Awards laureates

(From page C1)

international awards like Ryan's can give, to compensate at least in part for all the bad news we've been getting this year.

Much-coveted award

So, there we were in Athens early in the morning of Nov. 26, sleepy as heck after our long Manila-Singapore-Athens flight, but still raring to cover every step of Ryan's triumphant voyage to receiving his much-coveted award.

It was good that we were so fired up, because our schedule started that very morning, with official visits to two museums on Greece's history and culture. Sleep would simply have to wait! Anyway, as we told Ryan, as long as we had our dark glasses on to shield our drooping eyes, we would be fine.

When we met the other Onassis awardees in the lobby of the Athens Plaza Hotel, we saw that Ryan was in very good company, indeed. The laureates came literally from all over the world—

'Distinction prize' awardees

In the theatrical play category, first prize winner Daniel Du Plantis was from the United States (he was represented by a former teacher), as was second placer Deborah Brevoort.

The third prize winner, Panaiyotis Mendis, was Greek, and so was one of the "distinction prize" (honorable mention) winners, Vasilis Katsikonouris. Other distinction prize awardees came from France (Jacques Languirand) and the United States (Jean Sterrett).

In Ryan's category, the third prize winner, Pedro Navarrete, came from Spain. As for the winners in the choreography category, they were Carmen Werner from Spain (third prize) and Vincente Silva Sanjires from Mexico (distinction).

Organizers

In addition, there were contest organizers and judges from many other countries, making our group of 40 a veritable United Nations of the artistic world.

Seeing Ryan in the company of these other laureates and other artists, we felt a surge of pride. Our spirits were further boosted when we heard some of the organizers complimenting Ryan for the excellence of his "Misa 2000" entry, which they said clearly stood out over the hundreds of entries that they had received from all over the world. *(To be concluded)*

Centenary of Peace Prizes marked on CNN

THE TIMING of the centenary of the Nobel Peace Prize could not be more poignant. Now, more than ever, we realize the spectacular error in Alfred Nobel's hope that the invention of dynamite would put an end to war by making it so horrible that no one would want to engage in it.

Legacy

But the wealth generated from his invention created the Nobel Peace Prize through which his legacy and hopes live on. For one day every year, on the anniversary of his death, the world focuses on peace and those who strive to achieve it.

When Alfred Nobel called for the creation of a Peace Prize in his will, the inventor of dynamite hoped that it would help bring an end to war before mankind brought about its own destruction. Now, as the Nobel Peace Prize celebrates its 100th anniversary, the world faces a new challenge to peace with a new kind of war.

CNN pays tribute to the laureates of this distinguished prize with three in-depth programs dedicated to the Nobel Peace Prize winners past and present.

CNN special programming for the 100th anniversary of the Nobel Peace Prize includes:

(Times listed are valid in the Philippines)

—A one-hour special edition of "Insight" featuring the history of the Nobel Peace Prize and Alfred Nobel, on air 11:00 and 22:00 Saturday, Dec. 8.

—A special on previous Nobel Peace Prize winners—Peace Prize laureates in discussion with CNN's chief international correspondent, Christiane Amanpour, on air at 22:00 on Dec. 9.

—The "Prize for Peace"—a one-hour in-depth live interview hosted by Jonathan Mann with the 2001 Nobel laureate, Kofi Annan, airs at midnight on Tuesday Dec. 11 (repeated at 12:00 the same day.)

Special programs

CNN's vastly experienced journalists Christiane Amanpour and Jonathan Mann will travel to Oslo, the Norwegian capital city that Swedish-born Nobel made the home of the Peace Prize, to present three special programs on the prize, its legacy and its laureates.

Special edition of 'Insight':

Born in Stockholm in 1833, Alfred Nobel was fluent in five languages with interests ranging from chemistry to English poetry. He trained as a chemical engineer before a meeting with the Italian inventor of nitro-glycerine led to his invention of dynamite.

When Nobel died in Italy on Dec. 10, 1896, he directed that his estate then worth about $4 million, the equivalent of about $173 million today, be used for prizes in chemistry, physics, physiology or medicine, literature and peacekeeping. Nobel's extraordinary life story and legacy is the focus of the one-hour special "Insight" by Jonathan Mann.

Special program on previous Nobel Peace Prize winners:

All living Nobel Peace Prize laureates have been invited to this year's special centennial celebrations in Oslo and more than 30 of them are expected to join Christiane Amanpour, CNN's chief international correspondent, for an hour and a half discussion about the prize and its impact.

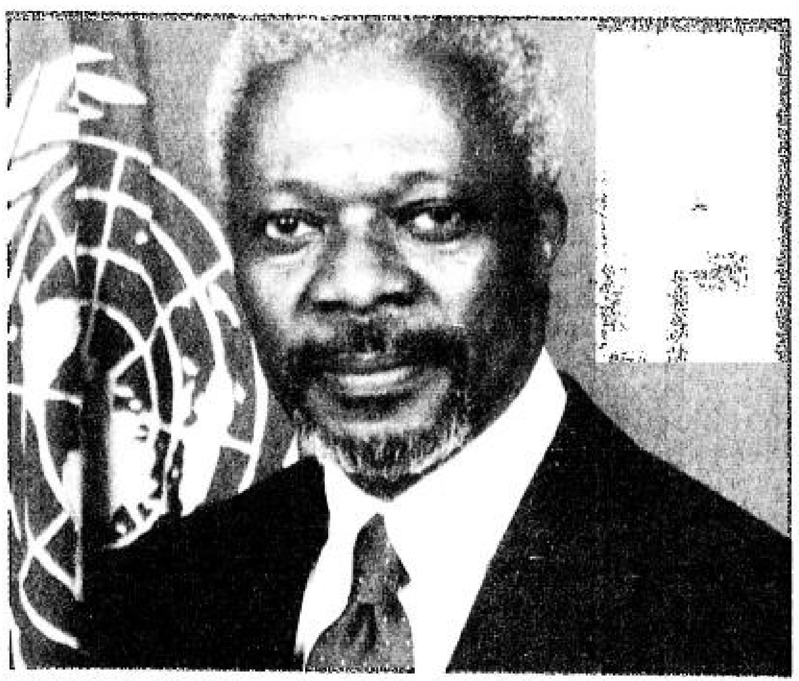
Sacrifice

In an unprecedented live program from the city's university, Amanpour and her guests look at the stunning human endeavor and sacrifice made by the winners in the name of peace.

'Prize for Peace,' a one-hour in-depth live interview with Kofi Annan:

In Oslo CNN also joins Kofi Annan, who accepts the award as "a great recognition for the world body and its staff. At the same time it is a great responsibility at such a difficult moment but reinforces US in pursuing the search for peace."

Mann will talk to Annan and profile his life and work, from his childhood in Kumasi, Ghana, to his election in 1997 to the post of seventh Secretary-General of the United Nations. Mann explains how Annan now confronts a challenge that is greater than ever, "pursuing the search for peace."


ANNAN. Search for peace.

The CompanY launches . . .

(From page C6)

thing. At first it occurred to me that they were talking about performing on the Hard Rock stage before, but then the song could also be talking about falling in love… I love songs like that—applicable to many situations and people. Another song I liked was "Gusto Ko ng A Cappella," done, of course, without music—impressively arranged, I don't know how they all kept up with each other and the arrangement. A major *kilig* song was Annie's solo – "Baka Ikaw," a song I repeated over and over again in the car going home.

Yet another song I discovered as I listened to the whole CD is the song, "You Made Me the Best." The idea of this song being sung as a bride (it doesn't have to be me, it's just the idea) walks down the aisle, looking at her groom, just thrills me beyond belief.

The lyrics go: "From that special moment/You came into my life/You gave me a different world/ Where everything's all right/ You made me the best/The best that I can be …" Sigh! And Moy's lead vocals are perfect for the song.

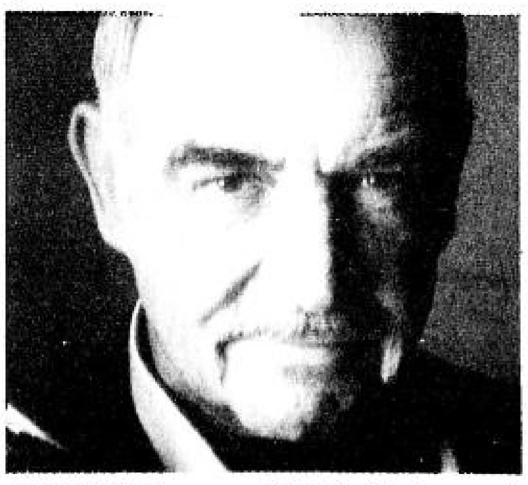
Medley

Because the CompanY knows their audience, they didn't just sing songs from their new album, they also sang a medley of their hits—"Muntik na Kitang Minahal" and "Everlasting Love," to mention two and, for an encore, they sang, *a cappella*, a medley of Christmas songs. I left the press launch with a Christmas-y feeling and a newfound speed to run to my car to listen to the other songs in the CD.

Darn it. Just realized the 45 minute-performance at the launch wasn't enough. They'd better stage a concert soon!

Holiday specials

(From page C6)


CONNERY. Plays an art thief in "Entrapment."

Demonic spirit

Timothy Dalton, Christopher Plummer and Piper Laurie battle a violent demonic spirit in "Possessed," showing on Sunday, Dec. 30 at 9 p.m. This shocking-but-true-story is the only 20th century exorcism sanctioned by the Catholic Church.

Finally, on Monday, Dec. 31 at 9 p.m., the legendary Sean Connery pairs off with Catherine Zeta-Jones in the blockbuster hit "Entrapment." When a priceless Rembrandt is stolen in New York, all fingers point to Mac (Sean Connery), the world's grestest art thief. Insurance investigator Virginia Baker (Catherine Zeta-Jones) persuades her boss to let her go after the criminal. Together they come up with a daring plan for a multi-billion dollar heist tied to the dawn of the new millennium.

Pasko Na Naman,
magdala ng libro't laruan
na pangregalo
sa batang nangangailangan.
PAPEL DE LIHA
BLUE DAY
MA AGA ANG PASKO SA Jollibee
Ngayong Pasko, muli tayong magbigay-saya sa mga batang nangangailangan. Magdala ng mga pangregalong libro at laruan sa Jollibee hanggang December 16, 2001. Bilang pasasalamat, makatatanggap kayo ng sorpresa mula kay Jollibee at Tito Aga, dahil tumulong kayong maging MaAga ang Pasko.

Department of Social Welfare and Development

The CompanY launches 'Storybook' at Hard Rock

By Gloria P. Sicam

I'VE never seen a bunch of people so comfortable with themselves and with each other. In the tiny dressing room at Hard Rock Café and a few minutes before performing, they *still* granted interviews to insistent members of the press who raided what little space they had to dress up and prepare for the press launch of their newest album, "Storybook". They were still all (sincere) smiles, and they were still kidding each other as they recalled their most memorable experiences while recording the album.

Sweet Plantado shared how, after she finished recording, she'd have a headache from giving her all – voice, emotion, herself

THE COMPANY. Have learned to be more tolerant of each other's tics and shticks.

Challenging

All of them laughingly recalled how challenging recording their solos was. Annie Quintos narrated how she couldn't seem to find the happy medium for a certain solo of hers: first she was too happy and sweet to the point of being Julie Andrews, next she was way too mellow.

Sweet Plantado shared how, after she'd record, she'd have a headache from giving her all – voice, emotion, herself.

Reuben Laurente talked about how, for this album, they all encouraged each other more than ever before, and they were blessed with "more tolerance" for each other's tics and shticks, and enjoyed one another a *lot* during recording. Sweet added that they would encourage the scheduled soloist through text, and would jokingly compete with each other for who would take the shortest time in the studio to record.

Cecille Bautista said that when it was her time to record her solo, she prayed hard, "Don't let me be the record-holder for taking the most studio time!" When asked who held the record, they all laughed and refused to answer. But when asked who was the fastest, they readily revealed that it was Sweet.

Finally, we were ushered out of the room so that they could finish getting ready and the show could begin.

The first thing I noticed about the CompanY when they went onstage (besides the big smiles and the excitement to sing the songs from their album) was their clothes – I really liked them. Not to say I didn't like their clothes from albums past. I just plain didn't understand them sometimes. They were wearing the clothes they wore for their album cover, and they all looked fabulous.

Amusing

I loved Andre Castillo's pants – they were white and had "CompanY" written all over them in a rather artsy way. It was like CompanY was a signature brand you could find at Linea Italia or something.

I also liked Reuben's "wear-his-heart-on-his chest" look, as his polo was white with an artistic heart in the front. Moy had a subtly wild look, as he wore a blazer on top of a white shirt with words like "punk and 'still wild'" printed on it.

All three ladies were gorgeous— Sweet and Annie in strappy dresses I would love to have and Cecille in an elegant black blouse and striped skirt. They looked great, I thought,and up to date, very much a part of this new century's style and fashion.

Of course, the songs were just as lovely as the clothes – I guess I'm just more visual, so that was the first thing I noticed. All their songs, they said, are *our* stories— meaning not just the CompanY's, but the audience's—"poignant short stories in song form," as the press release boasted.

Catchy tune

They opened with "I've Been Here Before," which was a catchy tune that could be applied to just about any-

THE COMPANY/ P. C5

Holiday specials on Star Movies this month

HAVE fun during the holiday season as Star Movies presents some especially exciting movies this December.

Catch Academy Award-winner Denzel Washington in "The Hurricane," showing on Tuesday, Dec. 11 at 9 p.m. He stars as Rubin "Hurricane" Carter, a man whose dream of winning the middleweight boxing title is destroyed when he is arrested for murder. The movie follows Carter's release from prison with the help of a young boy.

Poacher

A huge 15 foot-tall mutant gorilla is "Mighty Joe Young," showing on Sunday, Dec. 16 at 9 p.m. To protect him from hunters, Charlize Theron brings Joe to a California animal preserve. But when a poacher threatens Joe's safety, he breaks loose and wreaks terror on the wildest jungle of them all: Los Angeles!

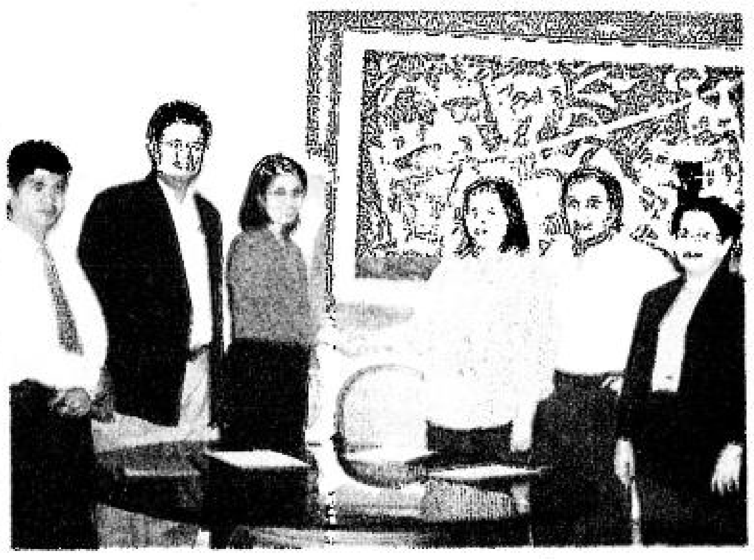
On Sunday, Dec. 23 at 9 p.m., model-turned-actress Liv Tyler stars together with Robert Carlyle and Jonny Lee Miller in "Plunkette and Macleane." Set in the mid-18th century and based upon real life characters, Plunkett and Macleane are two notorious highwaymen who infiltrate wealthy society. Along the way, Macleane falls in love with the niece (Liv Tyler) of one of the thievery victims.

Everyone's favorite Muppets get together in "The Muppet Christmas Carol," showing on Christmas Day at 9 p.m. A musicall version of the classic holiday tale, Kermit the Frog stars as Bob Cratchit with Miss Piggy as his wife Emily, together with fellow Muppets Gonzo the Great, Fozzie the Bear and Rizzo the Rat. Academy Award-winner Michael Caine is the miserly Ebenezer Scrooge, the 19th century proprietor beset by the ghosts of his past, present and future.

HOLIDAY/P. C5

DALTON. Stars in "Possessed," Dec. 30, 9 p.m.

WASHINGTON. Plays boxer Rubin "Hurricane" Carter.



CONTRACT SIGNING

IPM Realty and Development Corp. officials recently signed a contract for a project with St. Mary's Angel School of Valenzuela. From left: Powers and Grant general manager Jun Mallari; Powers and Grant president Philip L. Cristobal III; IPM president Isabelita P. Mercado; St. Mary's Angel School Of Valenzuela directress Susan Ramos; IPM senior vice president Arch. Elpidio C. Cruz and Powers and Grant VP for marketing Belen Fontanilla.

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* In Makati and Alabang. In Cebu buy one, take one at P500.
Deadline for recording of points for year 2001 is on Dec. 31, 2001.
Deadline for redeeming of rewards for points earned in 2001 is on Feb. 28, 2002.

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Discount Plus
Anna Bengson

Bigg's goes into franchising

STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

IT all started in 1983 when three enterprising ladies in Naga—NicNie Buenaflor, Maricar Manjon and Nena Bichara—wanted to give the food business a try. They opened a take-out window in 1983 and it instantly became a hit. Bigg's paved the way for the multinational chains to enter Naga. Early in the '90s, Bigg's changed its image to resemble the fun-dining experience of an American diner.

Success

The diner motif appealed to everyone, making it the most popular restaurant in town. With this success, the partners were confident that they could replicate their profitable concept outside of Naga. Bigg's Diner in Legazpi opened in 1996 and as expected, it was a big hit.

At present, Bigg's is the biggest fast-casual food chain in Bicol. It has a scaled-down version called Bigg's Jr. that aims to open in municipalities across the country.

Carlo Buenaflor is currently handling the chain's Franchising Division. Why go into franchising only now? H explains:

Queries

"The owners never had any intentions of expanding beyond the region before, but due to the many queries about franchising, they succumbed to the inevitable." For only a quarter of what one would invest in a multinational chain, Bigg's has an appealing investment package.

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(While a student at the University of Nevada, Carlo met another student, Maricar Dakudao of Davao City.

On Dec. 31, they will be married at former DILG Secretary Luigi Santos' sanctuary in Davao, with its lovely chapel in the middle of a huge expanse of greenery dotted with old mango trees.)

CARLO Buenaflor (seated) with mom Nena and Maricar.

THE three ladies who started Bigg's in 1983, in Naga, (from left), Nena Bichara, Maricar Manjon and Nie Nie Baretto Buenaflor, with Carlo Buenaflor.

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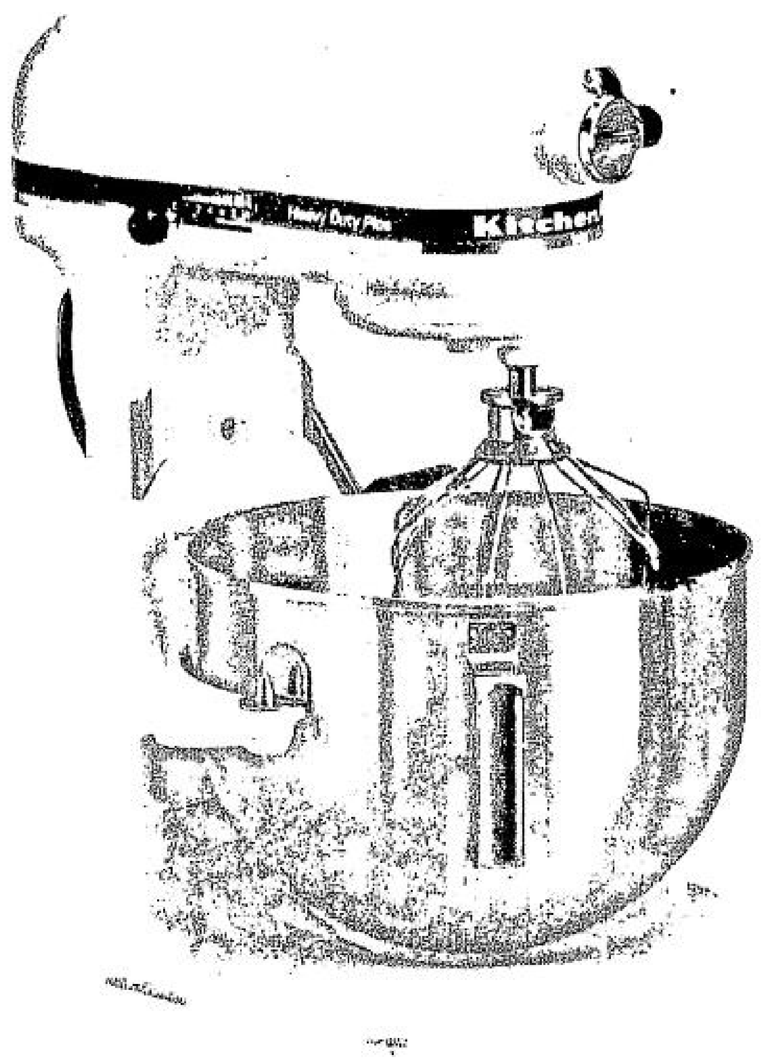

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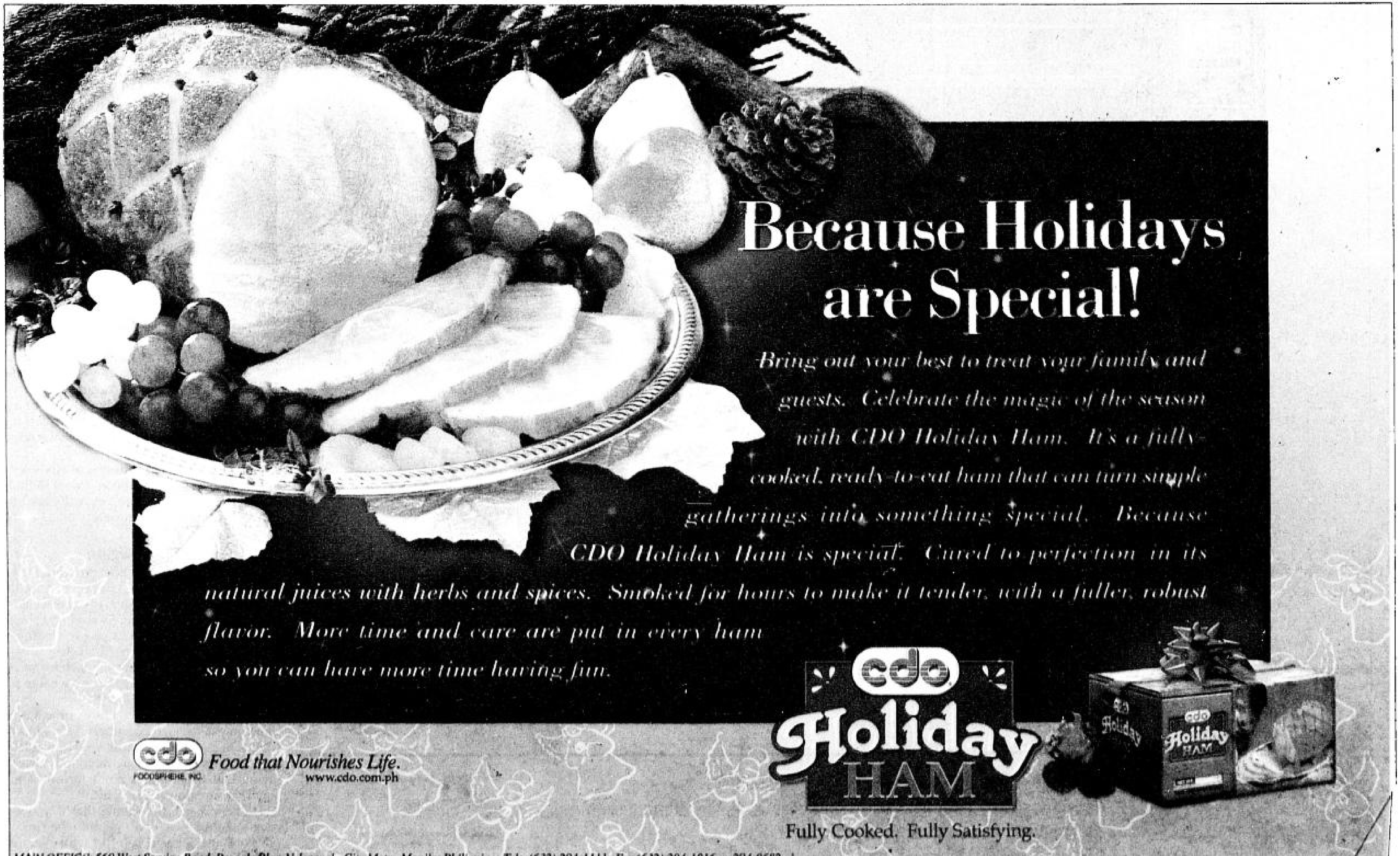

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Martin Nievera performs with Lea and Lani at PICC

NIEVERA. More bark, less bite.

By Edmund L. Sicam

"A SONG for Peace" is Martin Nievera's upcoming concert at the PICC. He has no less than Lani Misalucha as his guest on Dec. 14, and Lea Salonga on Dec. 15. The show features a 50-piece philharmonic orchestra and a 100-voice chorale with Louie Ocampo as musical director and conductor.

According to Martin, Lea is going to the concert straight from the airport and they still don't know what they can and cannot do onstage that night. What Martin really wanted was to do a medley of songs from "Miss Saigon" as a sort of tribute to Lea. "But she doesn't have time to rehearse. We'll just be happy with what she's willing to give us." Martin concedes.

Record-breaker

The concert is presented by Maximedia, the same outfit that produced his record-breaking 30-night concert series at Onstage. Recently Martin also did a one night-benefit at the same venue for New Beginnings, a rehabilitation facility for drug dependents.

Martin says he has never tried drugs at any time in his life. "I've never needed it. Some people take drugs to escape from reality. They're afraid to face the world without their mask on. I've never had a mask. What you see onstage is really what I really am in person, there's really nothing to hide."

Martin deals with his pain by focusing on work. He says work is his refuge. "I escape on the stage. I let out all my emotions through every song that I do."

Martin puts much effort into interpreting each song. Instead of acting in movies (which he has been quite unsuccessful at), he says he does his acting through his songs.

Movie career

Martin says his movie career has not done well because he hasn't put enough effort into it. "But I might surprise you. You might be congratulating me for that Famas award," he tells the group, and everyone breaks into laughter. "*That's* why I don't join the movies! Because everybody laughs when they find out I'm in a movie, unless it's a real funny comedy. So nobody will take me seriously!"

Martin reasons out, "Certain people were made to sing, others were made to act and when you start getting into each other's field, it's just not *bagay*. Like if I started doing semi-bold movies, showing some skin, doing torrid kissing scenes, you would know that that's not me. Now if it's a kissing scene *na* oops, I bumped against her teeth, and we start laughing as we're kissing, then you might be able to relate to the Martin you know." But he is still not closing himself to the idea of making a movie.

"But if I were to do a movie, it'd be a film where Martin could be Martin. I can speak more English, as opposed to fluent, deep, profound Tagalog, which is *talagang hindi bagay sa akin*. Light comedy. Something my kids can watch. I will not do a movie my kids cannot watch. Number one rule."

Pregnancy rumor

On the subject of kids, Martin was asked about the rumor that his present girlfriend is pregnant with his child. He dismisses the rumor, saying, "That was the rumor when I first met this girl. The kid should be in college already if I really had a child!" Martin says he would definitely admit to everyone if he indeed was going to have a child. "All I know about is a black cocker spaniel. If that's the one you're referring to…his name is Kookie and he looks a lot like me! That's the only 'child' we have now."

Martin reveals that having a child has not yet been a topic of conversation between him and his girlfriend. "I think if I were to do it, I'd like to do it right. I may be a little old fashioned, but you know, the whole wedding thing, and then there's a little honeymoon, and then there's a baby! But I look at the world today and I don't know if it's right to bring in a child to this world right now." He admits that Robin and Ram, his children by Pops are not too keen about the idea, either.

"Another reason why I've not taken my present relationship to the next step is because I have two children who are praying that I don't and it's very hard to reconcile myself with that fact." Martin shares that he has such a very busy schedule that he can hardly fit everything in. But he says that his priorities are work and his children. "It's hard. You have to divide your time. Where you gonna be when you have spare time? You gonna go out dating? Gonna go see different girls? I don't have time! Gonna see the girlfriend? I don't have time! Luckily, she's not here. She doesn't work here. So it makes things a little more convenient. Now, every second that I have available goes to my children."

Crushes

Martin also talked about his crushes—which he says, are many! "Oh my God! How much time do you have?" he quips. "I have many crushes. Joyce Jimenez is No.1 on the list." He mentions Donita Rose—"the only girl who makes me nervous when I'm around her. Which means I have a real crush, not a show biz crush, but the kind of crush *na* if I could court her, I would. *Iyung tipong ganoon, na* I hope I say the right things. Do I have cologne? Did I shower? That kind of thing."

He says that Joyce is actually a good friend. "If you can believe that a good-looking girl like that can be friends with a guy. She's such a *barkada* type of friend." Then he shifts the focus of the conversation back to Donita: "But Donita—I actually quiver when she's near, and I always want to say the right thing. She must know because I tell Angeli, who manages her."

SALONGA AND MISALUCHA. Martin's guest performers.

He adds to his list of crushes: Chin-chin Gutierrez. Gretchen Barretto ("She's so beautiful! Are you kidding? Flawless face.") Kristine Hermosa. Martin says, "I like simple beauty, not *iyung* 'Oh my God, what a body' kind of a girl. Like, Patricia Javier, those girls, they scare me. If Joyce wasn't like a buddy, a pal, she would scare me to death. She's too sexy!

"I don't like voluptuous and overly sexy and obviously curvaceous women. I want to find out for myself where those curves really are, in the slowest time possible, with every imaginary part of my body—!"

Single again

Martin laments about how difficult it is to be single again. He says he is a "more-bark-than-bite" kind of a guy. "The girls of today want more bite, less bark. And it's really hard now, being a newly separated man, and people finding you more attractive because you're single again—it's kinky! The wrong girls are approaching me now. They're the kind of girls you don't want to bring home to your mom.

"Believe it or not, even if my crime has been something in the girl department, I am still a one-woman man. I do love commitment and relationship, as opposed to having many girls. I'm not saying that those things don't turn me on but they're not a priority on my list."

He believes in the saying that if you don't want to get burned, don't get into the fire. "It's safer onstage, where I can flirt with everyone," he says mischievously.

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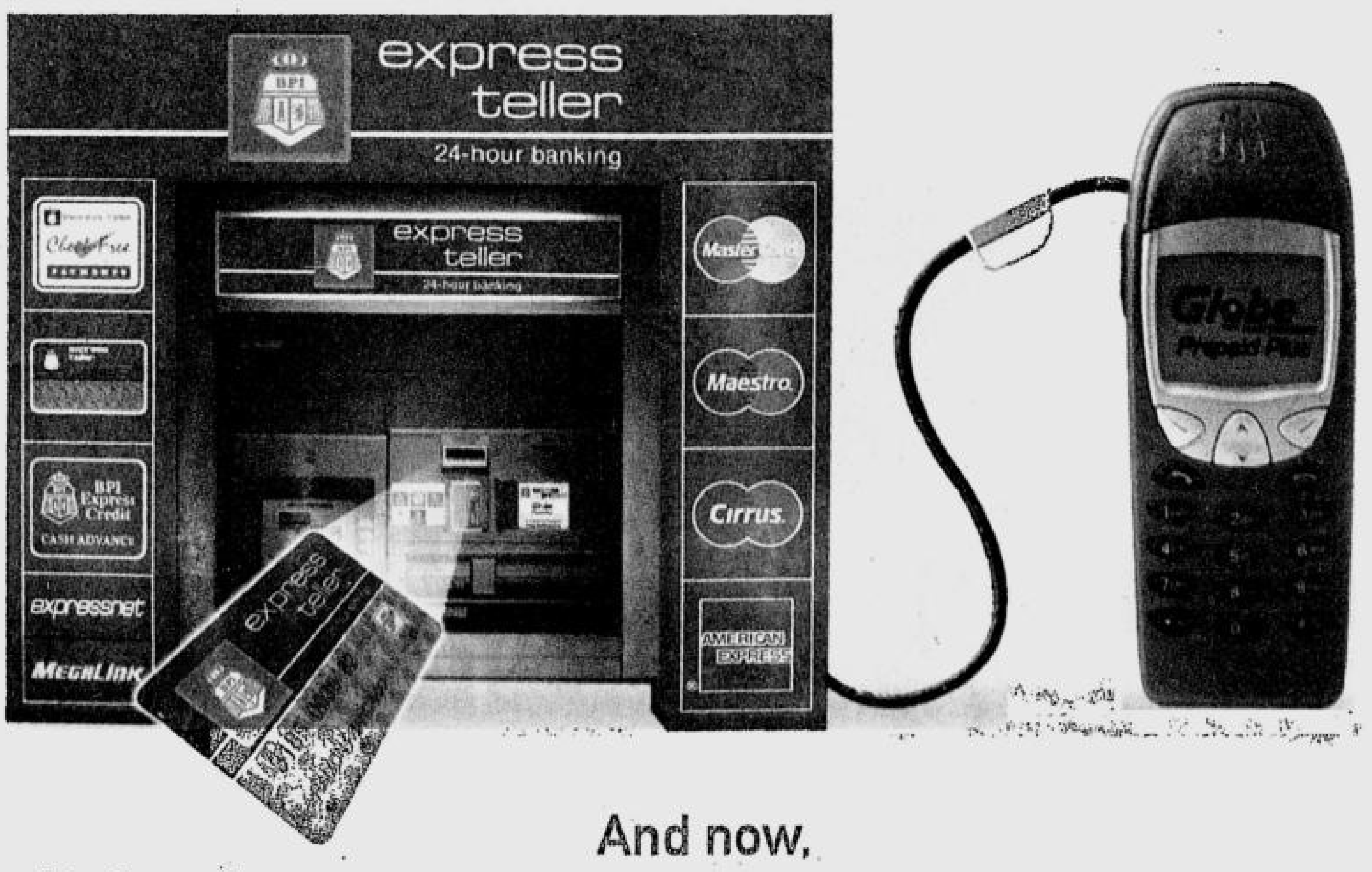

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'Bagong Buwan' reunites hit actor-director tandem

MONTANO AND DIAZ-ABAYA. She challenges him to surpass his usual standards; he strives to meet her high expectations.

By Nestor U. Torre

OUR TV and movie industry have more than their share of team-ups, combinations of talents who work together in production after production. Most of these creative partnerships are love teams—Judy Ann Santos and Piolo Pascual, Jolina Magdangal and Marvin Agustin, Dingdong Dantes and Tanya Gomez, that sort of thing.

Special attention

Less predictably and shallowly, there's another kind of partnership that obtains on the local entertainment scene that we should pay special attention to because it more definitively affects the kind and quality of the enetertainment we get.

This is the star-director combination exemplified in the past by Joseph Estrada and Chat Gallardo, Dolphy and Romy Villaflor, and Nora Aunor and Artemio Marquez, and today by the tandem of Cesar Montano and Marilou Diaz-Abaya.

The Cesar-Marilou partnership started with a big bang with "Jose Rizal," which scored a direct hit at the box office *and* won a slew of awards.

They decided they liked working with each other so, a years later they did a repeat with "Muro-Ami." The initially underrated movie surprised everyone by making even more at the box office than "Jose Rizal."

HIT/p.D2

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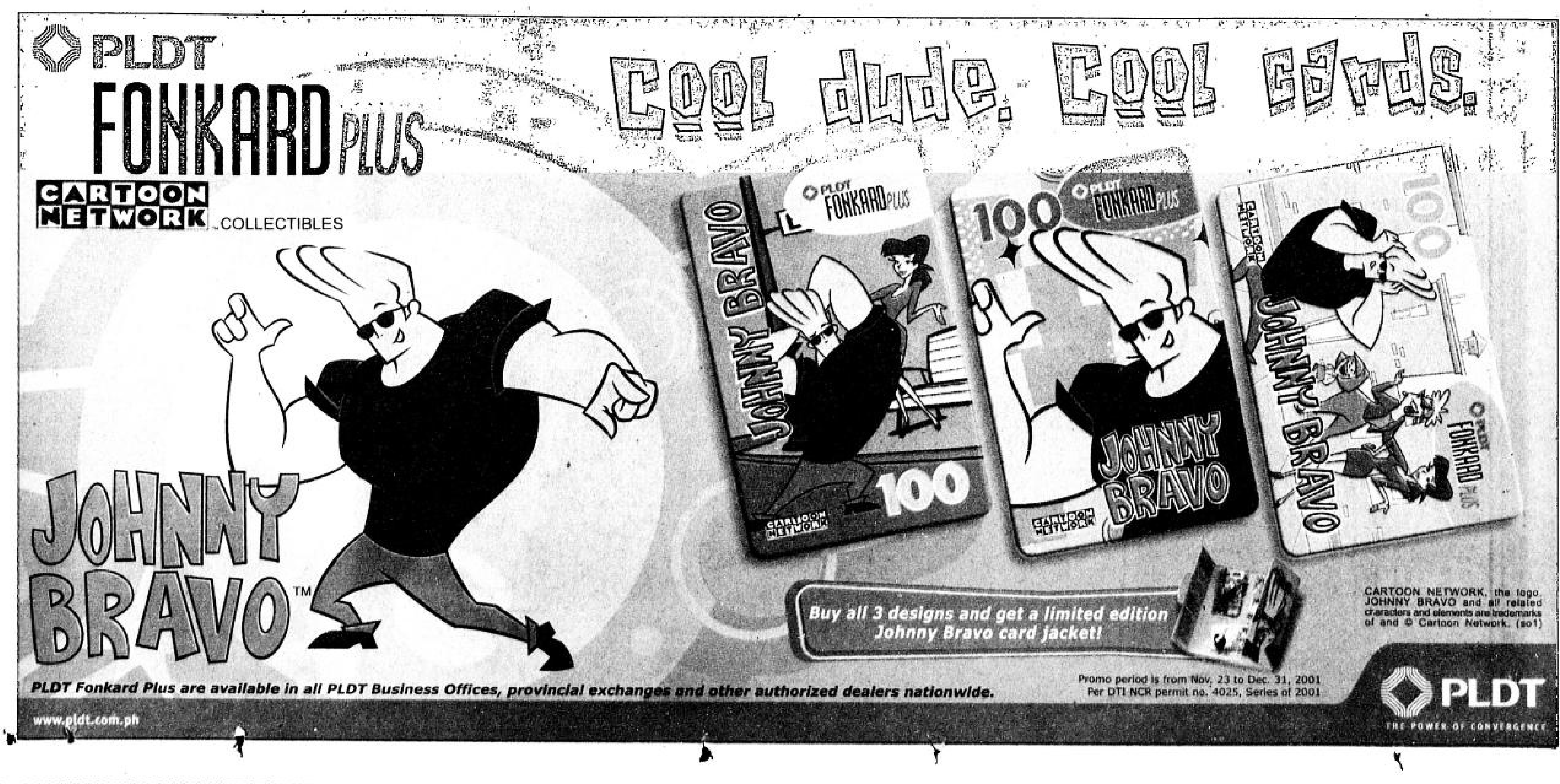
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PLDT
THE POWER OF CONVERGENCE

'Bagong Buwan' reunites hit actor-director tandem

STARS, ensemble players and crew of Diaz-Abaya's latest film work hard to bring the pain, exhaustion and terror of war refugees movingly to the big screen.

(From page D1)

In both films, Diaz-Abaya pushed Montano to the limit—in the Rizal movie, as a dramatic actor capable of multi-layered and textured characterizations, and in "Muro-Ami" by requiring him to develop himself into a convincing deep-sea diver.

Viewers clearly liked the way that Marilou challenged Cesar to surpass his usual standards, and Cesar's dogged determination to meet her high expectations. Both films turned out to be huge blockbusters, forever debunking the old movie-industry notion (or alibi?) that quality films can't possibly do well at the box office.

In fact, some film-scene analysts declare that "Muro-Ami" is the top-grossing Filipino film ever made, and "Jose Rizal" is in second place. That's a stunning declaration, and a most impressive one-two achievement for the Marilou-Cesar creative tandem.

Complex conflict

Small wonder that many producers want them to make movies for them, despite the big budgets that their productions usually require. It's interesting and instructive that, of all the offers they have received, Diaz-Abaya and Montano have decided to make "Bagong Buwan," the first motion picture ever made on the complex and clangorous conflict in Mindanao.

The film is a major challenge to the already experienced and committed filmmaker precisely because its material is so complex, controversial, prone to misinterpretations and biases, and even potentially incendiary.

To make sure that she was up to the daunting task, Diaz-Abaya had to take almost two years off to go to Mindanao, visit the scenes of warfare and the refugee camps, and rigorously steep herself in Muslim culture and Islamic studies.

DIAZ-ABAYA rehearses a scene with Caridad Sanchez and Cesar Montano.

Immersion

For his part, Montano also had to undergo his own kind of immersion to be able to convincingly play his role in the film, that of a Muslim doctor in Manila who is called back to Mindanao upon the death of his young son.

Back in the region of his birth, he is confronted with the conflict that he believes he has transcended, and he realizes that, this time, there is no turning away, and no turning back.

Like all Filipinos, and specifically like all Muslim-Filipinos, he has to understand and come to terms with the many contentious issues that have resulted in the long, sad, tragic war in Mindanao.

In the light of this daunting context, we believe that Montano's role in "Bagong Buwan" is an even greater challenge than his portrayal of the national hero in "Jose Rizal." We trust that, with Diaz-Abaya guiding and challenging him in the specially creative and productive way that they have worked out for the past six years, Montano will come through forcefully —and "Bagong Buwan" with him.

MONTANO with Jericho Rosales, who plays an army officer in the film.

Gloria Romero plays a friendly ghost in 'Bahay ni Lola'

(From page D7)

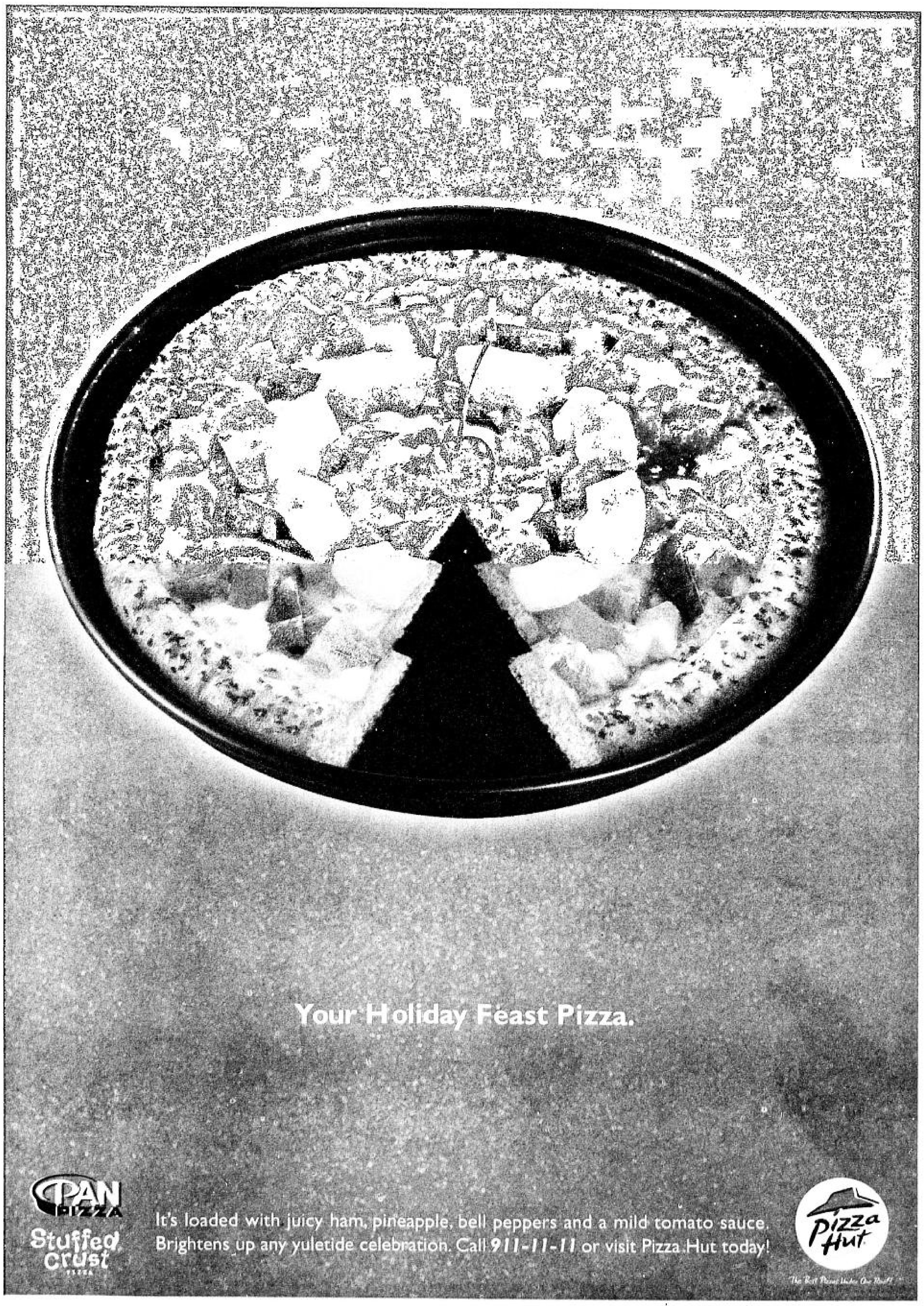
Sometimes there would be parties where the hosts would ask Sampaguita Pictures to bring some of their stars along. "Before we went to a party, *susmaryosep! Kailangan dadalhin mo* outfit *mo —kung ano iyung isusuot mo, mula sa* shoes, bag, *whatever*." Mrs. Perez would scrutinize the outfits of her actors. "She'dl say, 'Ummm...*hindi ata masyadong ano ito, hija...ang buhok mo kailangan lang simple, konting* make-up *lang.*' '*Pagagawa ka nila para* everybody looked good."

Social graces

Mrs. Perez was also very particular about their social graces. "'*Baka mamaya may* salad *doon, alam niyo ba kung ano'ng (gagamitin?)' Kasi ang babata namin*. We were 16, 17. '*Ganito iyan.*'" Gloria recalls how the studio would go out of its way to teach them the finer points of good manners and right conduct. Mrs. Perez would tell them, "Then *kung hindi niyo alam*, I will be sitting across you." Gloria remembers, "*Pag meron kayong dinampot na hindi maganda*, oh my God! So we would wait for her, *kung ano iyung kukunin, saka kami kukuha.* Play safe!"

And since she's secure and content with everything she has achieved, she matter-of-factly reveals the date she was born—Dec. 16, 1933. "If I hide it, *sasabihin nila, e,* 50 years *na siya sa pelikula!* I'm happy that I'm reaching this age."

ROMERO (third from left) with other major players in the film—Aiza Seguerra, Gina Alajar and Manilyn Reynes.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LiBReNG APPLiANCES ARAW-ARAW!

Aries B. Espinosa, Assistant Editor
SPROJECTS@INQUIRER.COM.PH
Grace Penales, Account Manager

Have a merrier shopping holiday at the SM-Citibank Appliance Fiesta

GO for a truly smart, worthwhile shopping experience this coming holiday. Start out bright and early and grab the hottest deals in the latest appliance installment spree courtesy of Citibank, the country's leading credit card company, and SM Appliance Center.

A bigger and more exciting SM-Citibank Appliance Fiesta is now underway from now until January 31, 2002. All cardholders of Citibank Visa Platinum, Citibank Silver Visa and MasterCard, Citibank Gold Visa and MasterCard, Citibank Clear MasterCard, Shell-Citibank MasterCard and Citibank Cathay Pacific Visa can look forward to the best installment deals for all appliance purchases.

Hurry and visit the ongoing exhibit at the SM Megatrade Hall at the 5th level of SM Megamall. Whip out your Citibank credit card and enjoy zero interest offers and reduced interest rates on the widest array of appliances—from kitchen equipment, dining wares and entertainment facilities.

Shop using the Citibank Paylite Installment Plan and go big-time! Whatever you fancy can be yours, without even leaving a dent in your wallets. Whether it's a 29-inch color TV, a four-burner gas range, the latest hi-fi stereo system, a DVD player, or your very own laptop computer, everything is within your reach at the SM-Citibank Appliance Fiesta.

Zero interest!

Zero interest offers on selected appliances are available for installment terms of 6 and 12 months. Reduced interest rates will be given for the rest of the appliance choices, and PayLite customers can avail of 3, 6, 9, 12, 18 or 24-month installment terms. Participating brands include 3D, Ariston, Aiwa, Carrier, Collins, Casiotone, Elba, General Electric, JVC, LG Collins, La Germania, National, Philips, Pioneer, Polytron, Samsung, Sony, Union, Whirlpool and more.

Win raffle prizes

Plus, Citibank cardholders who go for straight card purchases will enjoy special discounts. Every P5,000 charged to your Citibank credit card also gives you the chance to win great prizes in a raffle draw.

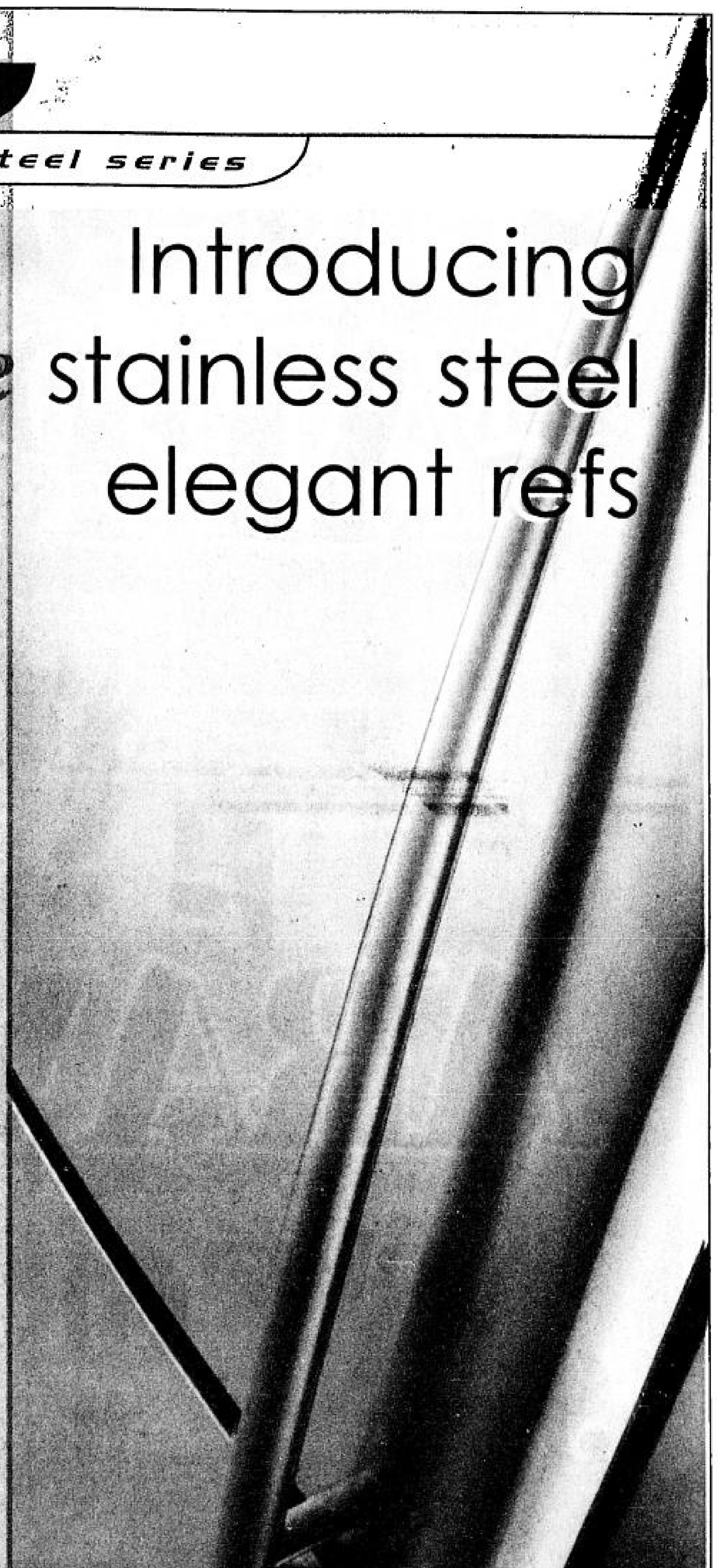
Reduced rates at all SM Appliance Centers

For your total shopping convenience, you can also visit the SM Appliance Centers at all SM branches for reduced PayLite interest rates for the duration of the promotion.

The Paylite Installment Plan is a value feature that lets Citibank cardholders pay for purchases of P5,000 and up in longer and lighter installment terms. Choose from 3, 6, 9, 12, 18 or 24 monthly installment terms for greater payment flexibility.

What's more, all your purchases will earn Citibank Rewards points, which you can exchange for free gifts including small and big appliances, air miles for free trips or annual fee waivers—truly another great reason to shop!

So head on to the SM Megatrade Hall or any SM Appliance Center nearest you and treat yourself to a merrier holiday with the most exciting appliance deals at the SM-Citibank Appliance Fiesta.



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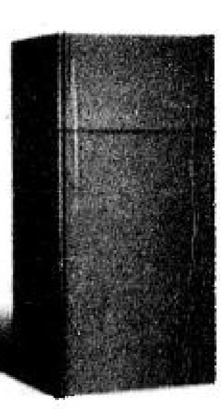

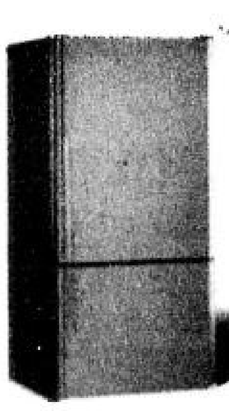

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Smart shoppers go for PayLite

GETTING more value than what they pay for—always—makes smart shoppers the envy of family and friends. Somehow, they have the knack for knowing the best promotions and the nose for great bargains.

Experience has taught them to even use with prudence any financial tool that they own, such as their credit cards. One credit card feature that smart shoppers frequently use is the PayLite Installment Plan, a value feature of Citibank credit cards that lets cardholders pay for big-ticket purchases in longer and lighter payment terms. This feature gets even better whenever Citibank enters into tie-ups with big merchant establishments such as malls and supermarkets.

One such tie-up is the ongoing SM-Citibank Appliance Fiesta, an exciting shopping spree designed to give Citibank cardholders more value for their money by allowing them to charge purchases worth P5,000 and more over 3, 6, 9, 12, 18, or 24 monthly installment terms. During these tie-ups, cardholders are also treated to zero interest offers on selected items, special discounts on straight charge purchases, plus the chance to win raffle prizes.

Among those who have only wonderful things to say about using Citibank PayLite is 30-year old entrepreneur Irene Pick.

"While I like to shop, I also know how to restrain myself and wait for sale periods. That's why I always make it a point to visit shopping tie-ups between my Citibank credit card and the malls, where I know I can always get a good deal," says Irene.

Her last Citibank PayLite purchase was a VCD. Not only did she get to pay for it in easier monthly terms, she also received a free gift of an oven toaster, plus Rewards points which she can eventually exchange for more exciting items of her choice.

The widest range of appliances—from kitchen equipment, dining wares, bedroom showcases, to entertainment facilities—await all SM-Citibank Appliance Fiesta PayLite shoppers. Items also include computer wares, such as the high-end printer which Mark Cho, finance officer for a multinational company, bought with his Citibank credit card.

"I got an HP DeskJet 840 printer and paid for it for only P1,899 a month for three months using Citibank PayLite," Marc narrates. "What made it even better was the zero interest plan. So payment was very light, very easy, with absolutely no extra cost."

Another Citibank cardholder who enthusiastically looks forward to every SM-Citibank Appliance Fiesta is young accountant Azalea Acuña. Having moved to her own apartment, she managed to furnish it with a new sofa set which she paid for within 9 months, also by using PayLite.

"It's really a great way to make those expensive items much easier to own," she says. "What even makes it hotter is that I can use PayLite anytime of the year, on and off season, for large expenses I wish to make monthly installments on."

So time to make those big items lighter on the pocket. Whip out that Citibank credit card and indulge in some smart shopping early in this season.

The time is right for PayLite!

BEING the year's most festive season, Christmas is the ideal time to spread cheer to your loved ones by remembering them with special gifts or hosting intimate get-togethers. Of course, doing all these will cause a dent on your budget. But if you have a Citibank credit card, you have a savior in the PayLite Installment Plan.

PayLite is a unique privilege available to all cardholders of Citibank Visa Platinum, Citibank Silver Visa and MasterCard, Citibank Gold Visa and MasterCard, Citibank Clear MasterCard, Shell-Citibank MasterCard and Citibank Cathay Pacific Visa. It doesn't require any pre-enrollment so you can immediately visit any of the participating establishments and use PayLite for purchases worth P5,000 and up.

PayLite offers you increased financial flexibility because you enjoy longer and lighter payment terms of 3, 6, 9, 12, 18 or 24 monthly installments! What's more, PayLite isn't a promotional offer that is limited to a certain period so you can shop for appliances and home furniture, enroll your child in school, get new school supplies or throw a party anytime you want!

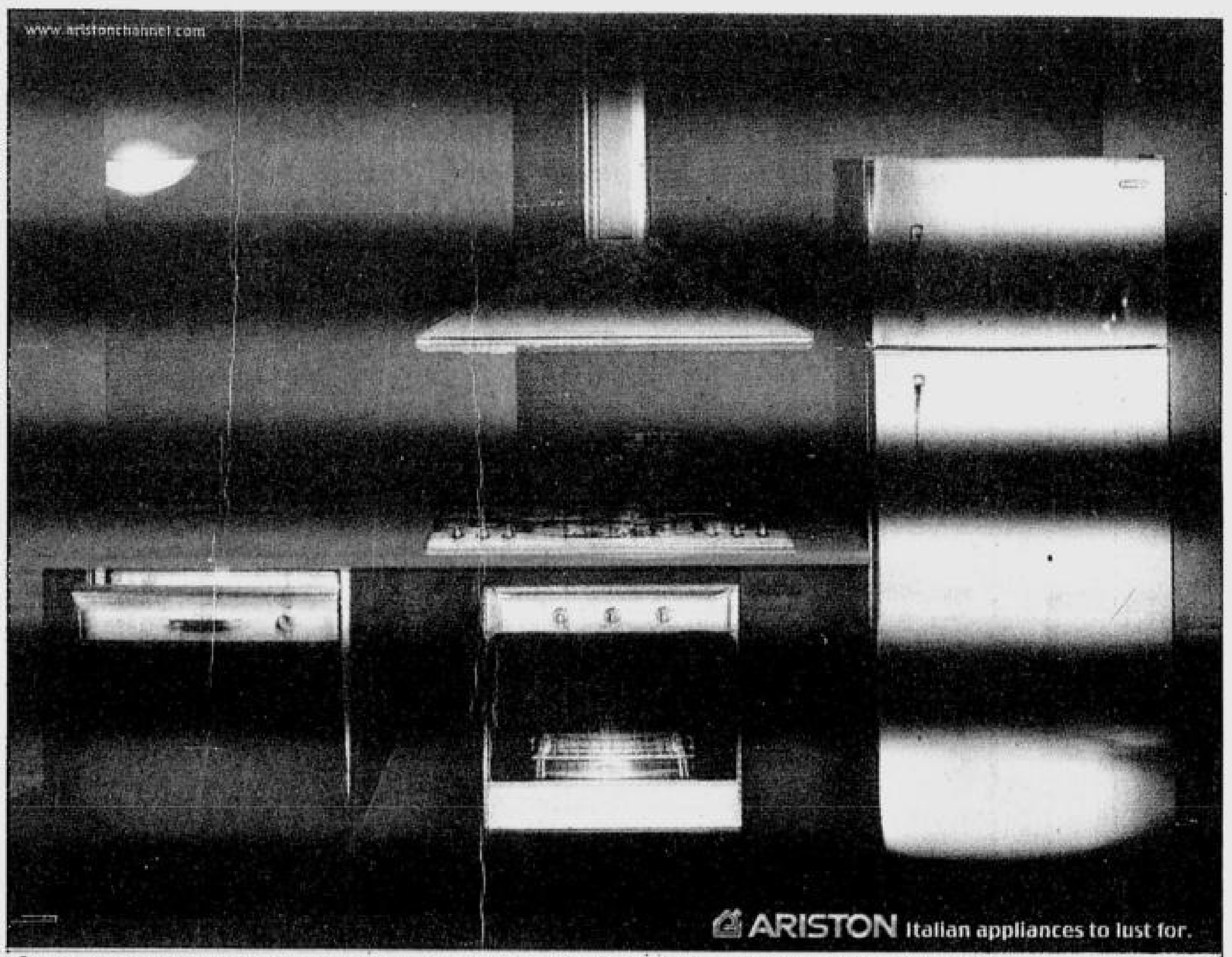
In addition, a growing list of merchant partners means you can have more choices and chances to use PayLite as it is now accepted in schools, party places, first-class hotels, gyms and health clubs in Metro Manila and Metro Cebu.

As a way to give you more value for your money, Citibank occasionally launches zero-interest promos with select merchants, giving cardholders the flexibility to pay for purchases for three months or longer with absolutely no interest and no hidden charges.

This is complemented by reduced rate offers, discounts, free treats and even double Rewards Points at participating establishments, that truly make buying on installment that much easier and attractive.

With PayLite to free you from financial worries, rewarding yourself with that flat TV, giving mom a brand new refrigerator or simply throwing a Christmas dinner for loved ones definitely becomes lighter on your budget.

To know more about PayLite, call the 24-hour CitiPhone at 995-9999 in Metro Manila, 234-9999 in Metro Cebu, 1-800-10-995-9999 in other provinces or log on to www.citibank.com.ph.



Sneak a peek at the range of household appliances from Italy's #1. Shangri-La Mall (631-8282) and Anson Arcade (887-0075).

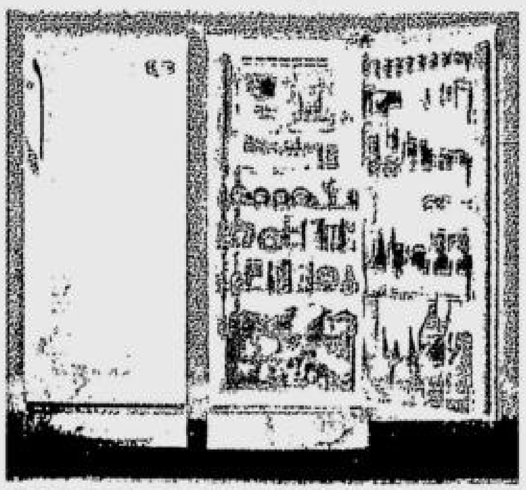
Poll names GE Appliances as most preferred in US

THE WIDELY quoted Louis Harris Poll from the United States released the results of its latest survey—among the brands rated as offering the best products and services in America, General Electric came for the sixth straight year as the white line appliance brand most often mentioned in the survey, beating other brands by a wide margin. RCA was the closest appliance brand below GE ranked at #10 overall. The survey results re-confirm the appliance giant's claim as "America's Most Preferred Appliance Brand."

The Harris Poll is widely followed not only in the United States but also around the world. Results of this poll are frequently quoted in the media, receiving thousands of mentions annually. The latest Harris Poll was conducted online within the United States between March 29 to April 2, 2001, among nationwide cross section of 2,641 adults.

Professional builders and remodelers seem to confirm the Harris survey; GE has, for the past six years, emerged as the leading source of appliances in the United States according to the Professional Builder's 2000 Brand Use Study. This means that GE is the name most trusted by US building professionals and experts.

Although GE has been widely known as a top American brand, it nonetheless has gained the trust and confidence of consumers worldwide. In Asia, for example, readers of the world's most trusted magazine, Reader's Digest, have voted GE the Superbrand Gold Awardee both in the Philippines and all of Asia for two consecutive years. This means that, according to consumers, GE products strongly uphold the values of quality, value, trustworthiness, strong image and understanding of consumer needs. It seems GE's Asian products such as the single-door and no-frost refs, air conditioners, freezers, washing machines, microwave ovens, and even water dispensers have been well accepted by the Asian market which demands high-value, reliability and energy-efficiency in appliances.

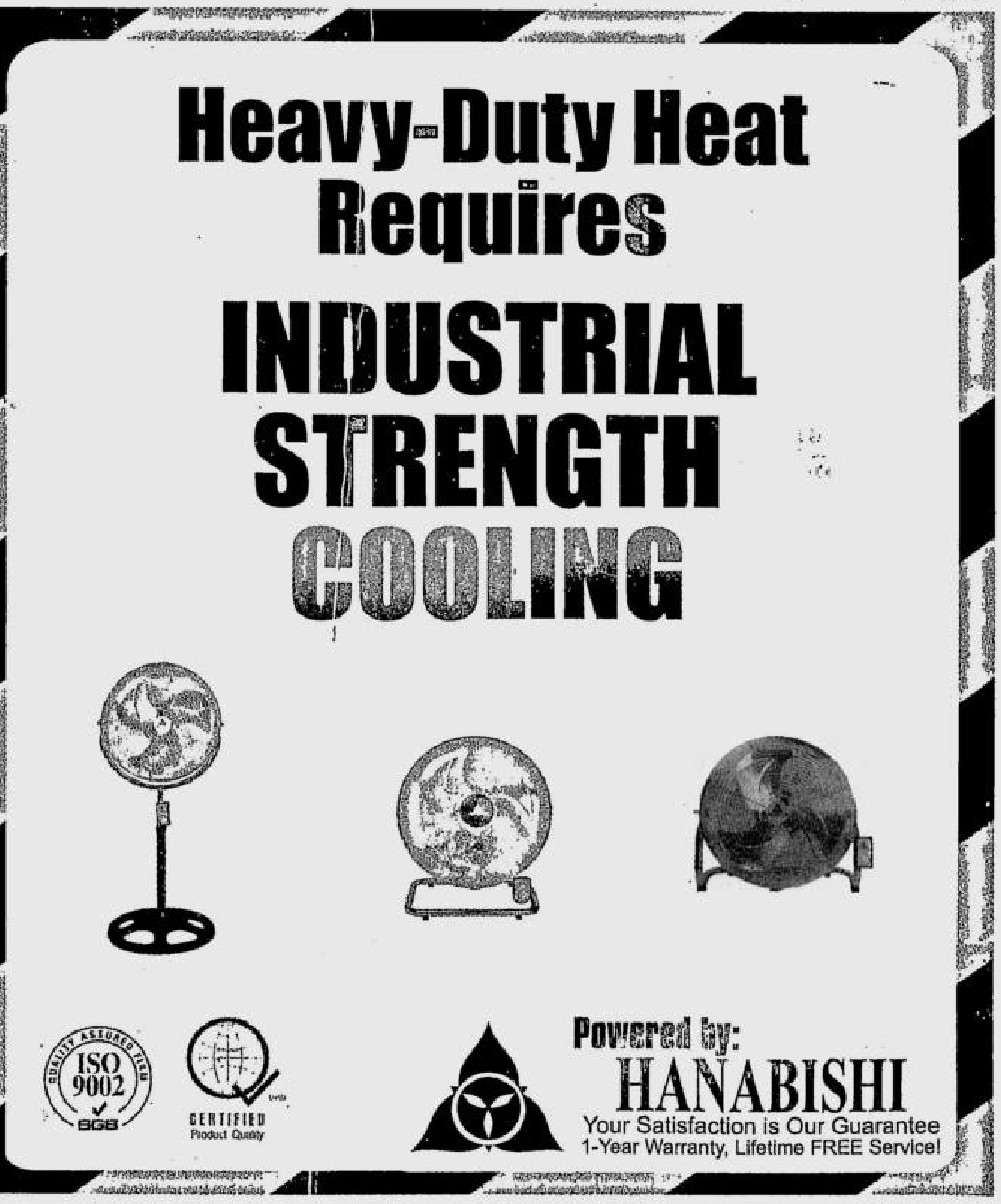


GE'S classic single-door ref answers all your ref requirements and, since it's a GE, it's sure to last a lifetime.

Nonetheless, US products such as the side-by-side and stainless refs, US laundry and the Advantium continue to be aspirational products for most of the Asian consumers.

GE Appliances' new Philippine distributor is CYA Industries, a freshly incorporated company bringing with it over 35 years of experience in the appliance industry. Its service requirements are supplied by Quality Circuits Services, a consumer welfare desk accredited by the Philippines' Department of Trade and Industry. True to GE's reputation of being concerned with total customer satisfaction, this makes GE Appliances the first American appliance brand whose service operations are accredited by the local government agency. Spare parts are readily available as there is an automated link between CYA and GE Appliances' global parts center in Louisville, Kentucky.

For more info on GE Appliances, call 631-8282 or 887-0075. GE Appliances are currently available in leading appliance centers nationwide such as SM Appliance, Anson Appliance, and Western Marketing.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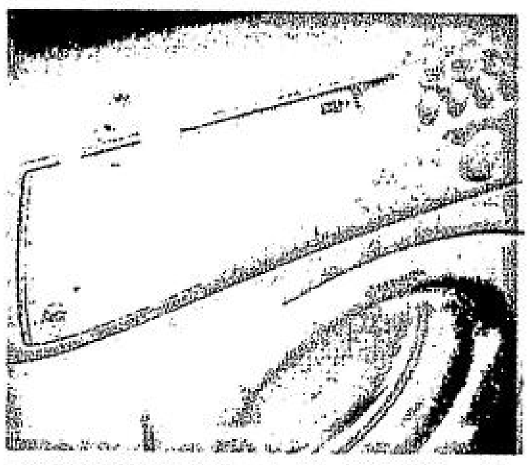
LiBReNG APPLIANCES ARAW-ARAW!

Ariston introduces '30-Minute Daily Wash' feature

ARISTON, Italy's No. 1 appliance brand, recently introduced in the market the latest washing machine model from its Margherita series. The AB 65 X is Ariston's 5-kg capacity, fully automatic front-loading washing machine that boasts of a washing cycle as short as 30 minutes – a product feature in demand with a great number of washing machine buyers. Thanks to this 30-minute Daily Wash feature, the user saves time and electricity because he or she only needs to wait for half an hour to wash her everyday laundry of as much as 3 kg using as little as 0.22 kWh and 30 liters of water. With today's hectic lifestyle, this time and energy-saving feature will definitely be welcomed by today's homemaker.

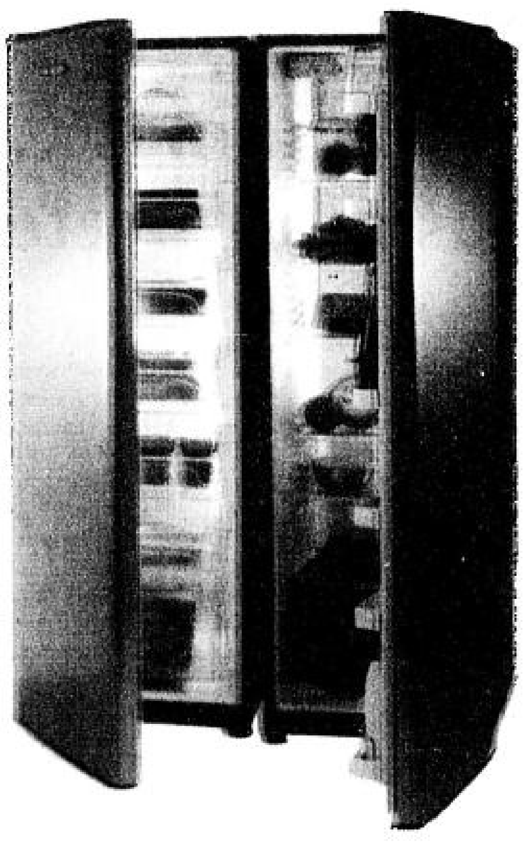

ARISTON'S sleek Margherita AB 65 X, has the innovative 30-minute Daily Wash feature suitable for today's hectic lifestyle.

This front-load washing machine is created to guarantee a perfect wash while taking maximum care of fabrics. It has 23 washing programs that makes washing more convenient because they can now choose from more programs according to what is best suited to her needs. The program can be selected according to the type of garments that need to be washed – cotton, synthetic and even wool. Choices in wash programs range from maximum wash at 90 degree celsius to delicate wash at 40 degree celsius.

Other advanced features include the self-balancing system to ensure stability, absolute silence and durability. The 180-degree door opening allows easier loading and unloading. The door also has double hinges for greater durability and stability.

Aside from the highly effective front-load washing machines, Ariston also offers an elegant line of products that will suit all their cooking requirements such as stainless steel cookers, refrigerators, dishwashers and dryers. For people constructing new homes, they can brighten up their kitchen by choosing from a wide variety of built-in products like cooktops, ovens and rangehoods.

For more details about Ariston Italian appliances, call or visit the showrooms at the 4th level of Shangri-La Plaza (631-8282) or 887-0075 or at Ansons Arcade Makati.

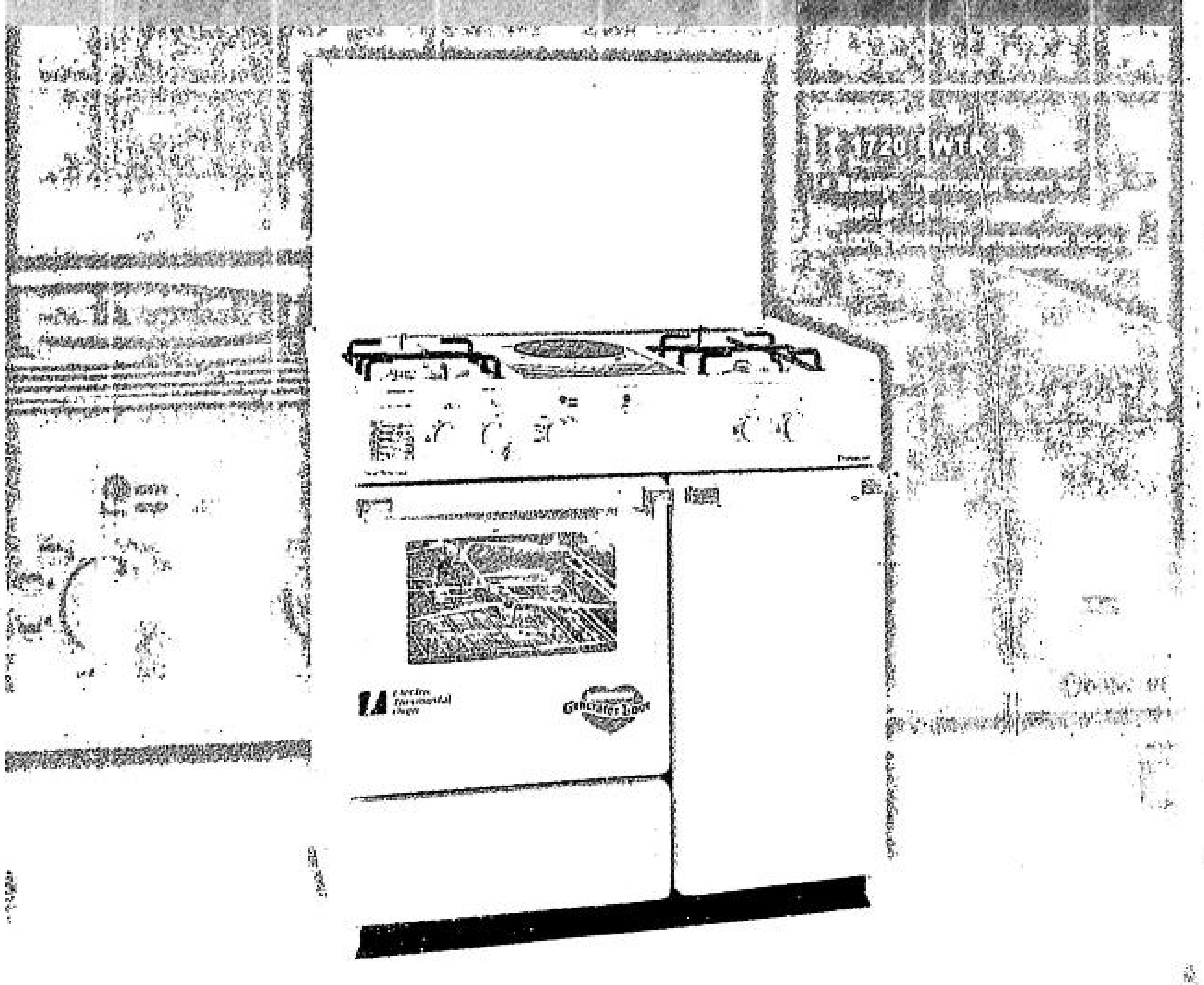


The Fisher and Paykel stainless steel elegant refs now come in a perfect match

THE ultimate in kitchen style and convenience--the perfect match--is here. Engineered to operate efficiently and maintenance free, the vertical freezer and matching vertical refrigerator are purposely designed to stand side by side, giving them more capacity than most popular side-by-side refrigerators.

At the heart of this innovation is Fisher and Paykel's commitment to electronics. Through harnessing electronic power and intelligence, Fisher and Paykel has developed appliances that perform with greater simplicity and efficiently, more economically and with a long term-term respect for the environment.

CONVENIENCE



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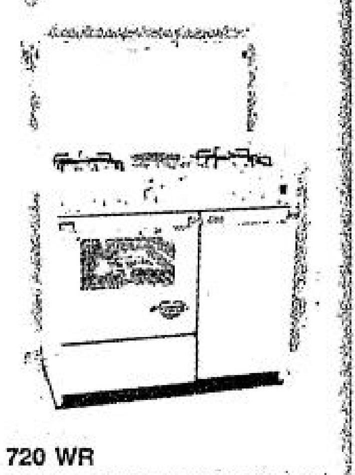

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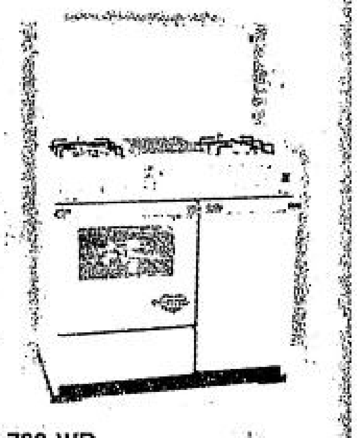

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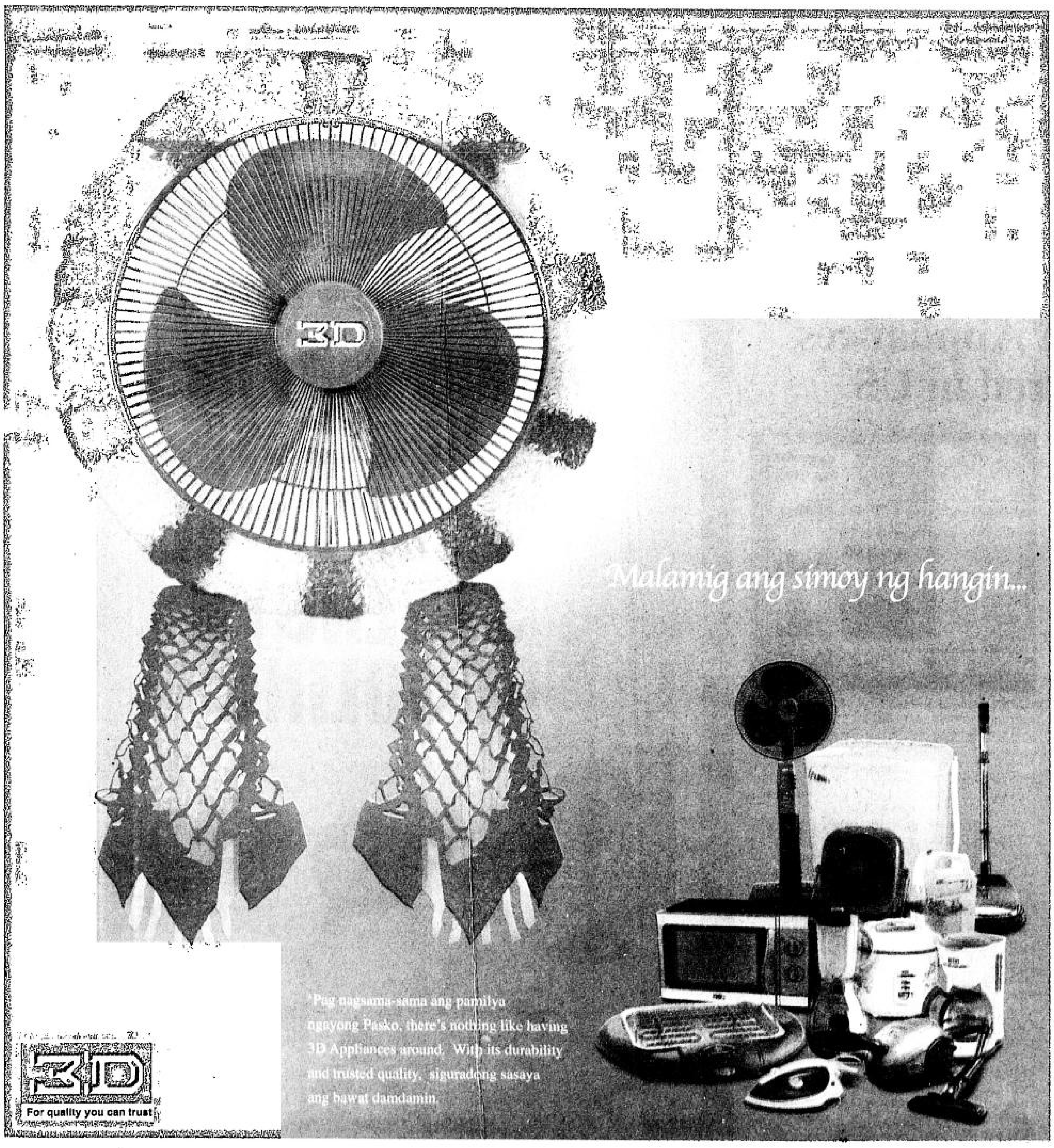

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Gloria Romero plays a friendly ghost in 'Bahay ni Lola'

By Edmund L. Sicam

GLORIA Romero, erstwhile queen of Philippine cinema, sits in the middle of the Regal coffee shop, where she is holding court, surrounded by movie reporters. She talks about her newest film, "Bahay ni Lola" where she plays a friendly ghost who takes care of the ancestral home. The movie is the "hopeful" entry of Regal Films to this year's Metro Manila Filmfest.

Her audience begs her to reminisce about the good, old days of show biz, when Sampaguita Pictures and LVN Films determined who would make it and who wouldn't. The days when wearing a bathing suit was considered daring and studio heads made sure that the actors in their stable were well-mannered and properly dressed.

Gloria Romero belongs to that era, notably different from that of today. But, with [illegible], never do you hear her say one word against today's show biz scene. She discloses to the group that she is actually "a little impatient." "Kasi I want everything to be, *alam mo na*, correct and everything. *Pero* I have learned to accept."

Benefit of the doubt

She starts to talk about young stars who are often late for shooting. But still, she gives them the benefit of the doubt. "*Kasi naman, ang mga bata* nowadays are so overworked! *Makikita mo,* all of a sudden *magpapaalam sila meron silang ipo*-promote, *may kakanta, merong* pictorial, *merong ganito,* so you have to be understanding. Some *naman*, they go to school, and that's good."

Gloria is elated that there are a lot of young actors today who show a lot of promise. "*Sa* boys, we have so many. Of course, *sa aking mga anak-anakan*, you have *sina* Marvin(Agustin), Jericho(Rosales), *si* Diet(Ocampo), *si* Piolo(Pascual), they all have their own talents. *Si* (Carlos) Agassi."

She shows an obvious liking for Kristine Hermosa, whom she says reminds her of herself when she was younger. "I don't know if you'll agree with me...*yung* looks *niya, maputi siya* and everything, and she's a little on the sweet side." She continues to talk about Kristine, "*Isipin niyo, si* Kristine was only in 'Richard Loves Lucy'. Now look at her....*nakakatuwa*!" Gloria says, beaming with pride.

Studio system

Gloria then talked about how the studio system benefited the actors during her time, and how the entertainment industry is trying to replicate it at present. "For a while, Mother Lily started building up her own stars, her own scriptwriters, her own directors. Even now in Star Cinema, they're doing the same thing with the Star Circle stars. It would be good, *kasi naaalagaan sila,* they're given the proper build-up."

Gloria laments the state of the movie industry. "*Nakakalungkot isipin* that we don't make as many movies as we used to, *pero baka sakali* we will pick up. We're hoping and praying *naman*." She acknowledges the fact that television is the lifesaver of the entertainment industry. "*Nagpapasalamat nga kaming lahat. Kung titingnan niyo, di ba lahat ng artista ngayon, kahit papaano, merong* TV show?"

She has one regular television show at present, "Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan" on ABS-CBN but says she has not been accepting any invitations to appear on other television shows. "*Kasi iyung ibang* shows *inuumaga ang* taping, *e. Hindi ko kaya iyon!*" she admits sheepishly. "*Hanggang 12 lang talaga ako.*"

Prosthetics

Aside from the time factor, she is open to participating in all kinds of shows. "*Ay, oo naman! Dito nga sa ginagawa ko sa* "Dulo," prosthetics *pa ako dito,* my hair is white, *nakatina iyan, nakalagay ng* spray, *nilalagyan ng* whitener. *Kahit sa loob! Wala na akong maliliit na buhok sa kakatanggal ng prosthetics! 'Kala ko noong una, sandali lang yun pala ang hirap no'n!* The whole day *ganyan!* But it's cute *naman.*"

She is still very game when it comes to acting. "They needed an old woman....*e sino pang gaganap e di ako na iyon!*"

The writers ask her who among the actors in her generation are still active. She pauses for a moment to think. "Bella Flores.....Zeny Zabala...." The reporters ask if there is no one left of her caliber. If she was yesterday's Vilma, who would be her Nora? "The late Nida Blanca....." she answers, her voice trailing off. The topic suddenly changes, as if nobody wants to dwell on the painful memory.

Gloria also shared with us that at a very young age, she had already decided that she wanted to be an actress. "I used to declaim in school. *Gusto ko nang mag-artista no'n! Halimbawa*, there was a graduation or a program, '*Anong puede mong i*-contribute, do you want to sing, do you want to dance?' I could never be a singer or dancer, so declaim *ako*!"

She would give it her very best. "*Nilagyan ko ng uling ang mukha ko, ang haba ng buhok ko, punit iyung damit ko. Ang aking* favorite was 'Nobody Cares'!" She laughs as she remembers. "*Tapos 'yung mga* teachers *ko nasa harapan, 'Tingnan mo 'tong si Gloria, pinaiyak na naman tayo. Mahilig mag-artista iyan, kaya.' Sabi ko,* 'Yes ma'am. You know, that's my dream, to be in the movies. *Paano ba ginagawa iyan? Hindi ko pa rin alam, basta gusto ko.*"

Extra

So she worked as an extra in the movies before she was given any significant roles. She describes her early acting years as hard work. She shares that in her younger days, the studios did not encroach upon their love lives. However, they would ask their actors what their priorities were at that point. "(*Sasabihin lang nila*) 'You're too young.' 'Take your time'. *Ang hinihingi lang nila* was are you serious with your career?

"*Kasi naman* it also needs a lot of, you know, money, everything involved, *yung kanilang* effort. If you are not serious, *sayang lang naman.* There are others *naman* that are waiting. So *tatanungin ka,* 'Are you serious, do you intend to stay here, for how long, *talaga bang mahal mo ito?*' It's just like you go to school, you go to the office, you wake up early *para hindi ka ma*-late *sa* school, *para hindi ka ma*-late *sa opisina.* This is also a job, *hindi ito puro* glamour."

Gloria's first film ever was in late 1949, "Prinsipe Don Juan," with Premiere. She recalls her director then, Ramon Estela, whom she describes as "*parang* Amerikano. *Kung magsalita iyon*, English." She played one of the tavern girls and described herself as "*Para akong si* Olive Oyl *ni* Popeye. *Walang korte ang katawan*!"

She continues to give the group an inside look into the making of her first film" "Si Efren Reyes Sr., *ilalagay ang* head *niya dito. Nanginginig pa ako*, the big star. Si Anita Linda, she was the queen. *Tatayo ako at sisigaw ako*, '*Hihintayin kita*, Prinsipe Don Juan!,'" she recalls, with excitement in her voice.

Climax

"*Naku, makinig kayo*!" she says, preparing us for the climax. The director asks for a rehearsal. Gloria stands up and delivers her line. "*Hihintayin kita*..." The director shouts, "I can't hear your voice! Who's that girl over there in the tavern?...OK, louder!" Gloria recalls thinking, "*Diyos ko po! Ganito pala kahirap! Ano itong pinasukan ko*?" The director calls, "Take!" Gloria takes her place again. She stands up and starts delivering her line again. "I can't hear...cut! I can't hear your voice!" interrupts the director. Second take.

Finally, the director says, "Can we please cut it and get another one?" "*Pinalitan ako*!" Gloria exclaims. However, we find out that only her dialogue was cut. She still came out in the movie.

GLORIA/p.D2

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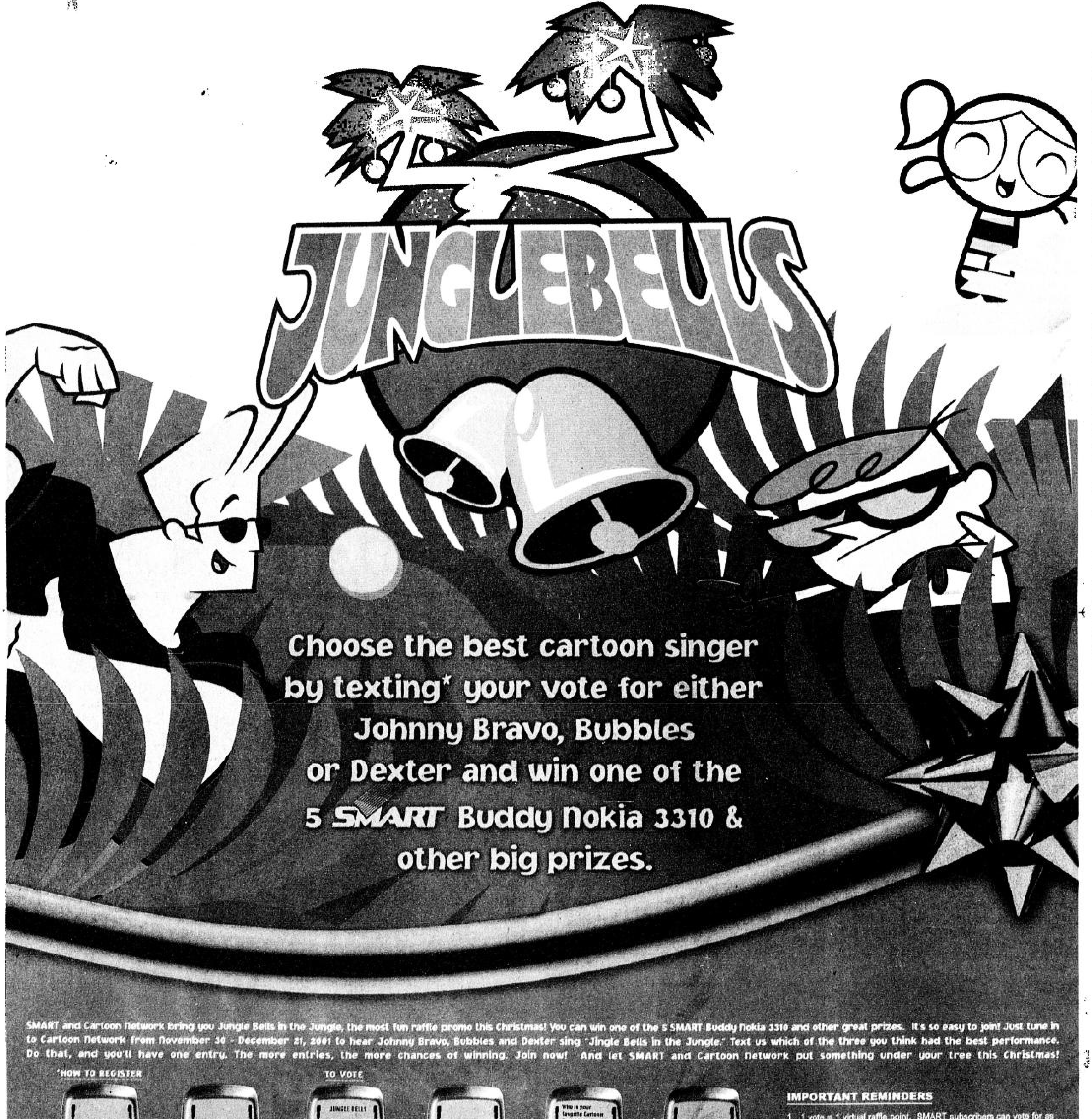

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Saturday SPECIAL

KIDMAN. Potential contender for two wildly-contrasting portrayals.

Oscar actress field has no clear frontrunners

LOS ANGELES—You couldn't ask for a stronger Best Actress lineup than the Oscars offered last year, headlined by eventual winner Julia Roberts for "Erin Brokovich," with

OSCAR/ p. E2

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Oscar actress field has no clear frontrunners

(From page E1)

formidable contenders in Laura Linney, Ellen Burstyn and Joan Allen.

Stellar outings

Barring an outstanding performance dropping in from left field before year's end, any one of those stellar outings from 2000 likely would vault to frontrunner status this season, when the lead actress prospects look far thinner.

That's not to say this year's films haven't produced fine female leads. Most of them just don't feel like the slam-dunk dramatic turns that the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences traditionally gravitates toward.

The lighter field of competitors could wind up making the best-actress category one of the liveliest in the upcoming awards season, opening the door for stars and relative unknowns in independent films, quirky dramas, some foreign-language flicks and even one full-on comedy and a musical.

"I got to sing and dance in a movie. When do you get to do that? How fabulous," said Nicole Kidman, a potential Oscar contender for both her musical "Moulin Rouge" and her creepy turn as a British mom dealing with the otherworldly visitors in "The Others."

Grieving mother

Five-time nominee Sissy Spacek, who won an Academy Award for 1980's "Coal Miner's Daughter," seems like a shoo-in for another nod for her role as a repressed, grieving mother in "In the Bedroom."

Scottish actress Tilda Swinton, relatively unknown to US audiences, also has a good shot for "The Deep End," playing an American housewife coping with blackmail and the body of a man she believes her son may have killed.

Past nominee Cate Blanchett could be in the running for the World War II drama, "Charlotte Gray;" the film's not terribly involving, but Blanchett lends it a classy presence.

Another possibility: Halle Berry, delivering a career performance in "Monster's Ball" as the wife of a condemned killer who becomes involved with one of her husband's executioners.

Two-time nominee Julianne Moore remains an unknown quantity for "The Shipping News," which has yet to screen for critics.

Michelle Pfeiffer could pick up her fourth Oscar nomination as a highstrung lawyer in "I Am Sam," starring Sean Penn as a retarded man fighting for custody of his daughter.

PFEIFFER. Could pick up her fourth nomination as a highstrung lawyer in "I Am Sam."

BLANCHETT. In the running for her performance in the World War II drama, "Charlotte Gray."

"I don't really think about that, because I don't know, I never sort of know which way the winds blow in that arena," Pfeiffer said. "What I can say is, I'm really proud of the movie. It was such a rich experience on every level. You only wish every movie could be that kind of an experience. One would never need another award if that were the case."

Breakout role

Hilary Swank, who won the 1999 Best Actress Oscar with her breakout role in "Boys Don't Cry," may have awards prospects for her costume drama "The Affair of the Necklace." It's a so-so movie, but Swank gives a graceful performance that might grab awards attention as a counterpoint to her gender-switching role in "Boys Don't Cry."

Oscar nominations will be announced Feb. 12, with the awards presented March 24.

Lacking the sort of powerhouse performance of a year ago, the Best Actress category this time around looks wide open. "Last year was one of those rare years where you had an obvious front-runner [Roberts] who was invincible," said Tom O'Neil, who runs the entertainment wards website www.golderby.com and is author of the "Movie Awards."

Among other Best Actress possibilities this year, with the disclaimer that some are real longshots:

Past nominee Stockard Channing as an executive playing a night of head games with an assistant in "The Business of Strangers;" Judi Dench, a supporting actress winner for "Shakespeare in Love," as writer Iris Murdoch in "Iris," a grim look at her battle with Alzheimer's disease; newcomer Audrey Tautou as the perky, Audrey Hepburn-like heroine of the French-language charmer "Amelie;" Charlotte Rampling as a woman in frightening denial over her husband's death in "Under the Sand," a film mostly in French with some English dialogue; Naomi Watts as a starlet wannabe in David Lynch's dark and twisted "Mulholland Drive;" Thora Brich as an iconoclastic teen malcontent in "Ghost World;" and Renee Zellweger for her comic romp as Britain's hapless muse of romance in "Bridget Jones's Diary."

OSCAR/ p. E3

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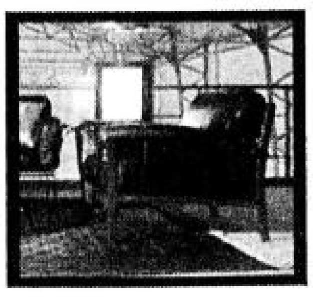

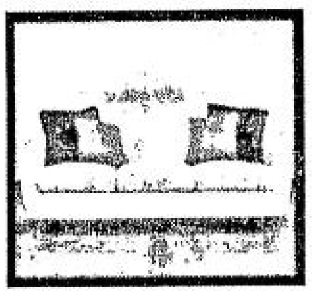

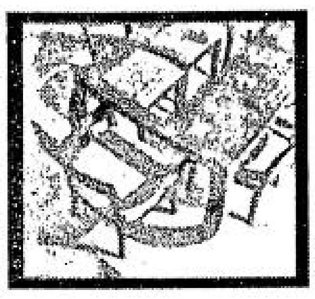

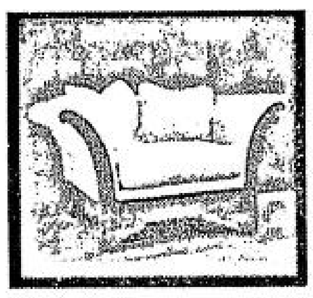

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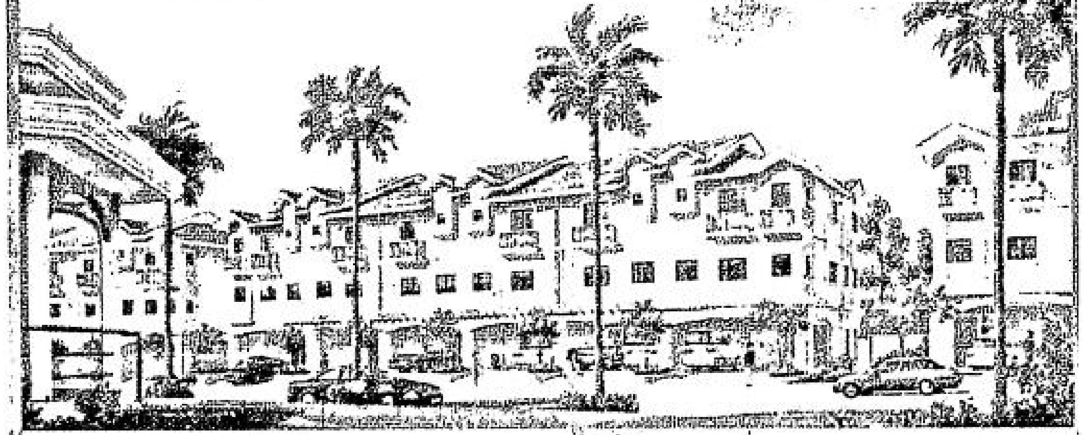

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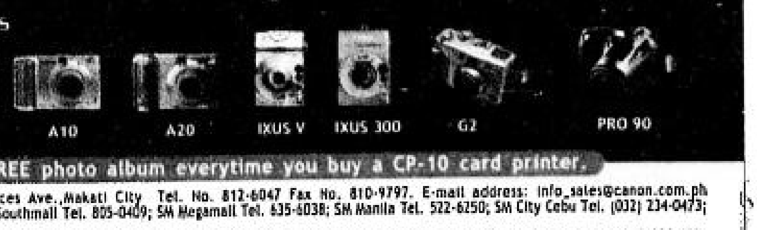

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Oscar actress field has no clear frontrunners

(From page E2)

Drawbacks

They all have drawbacks that could undermine their Oscar prospects, but also some advantages. Rampling could have sentiment among voters as a respected actress who's never been nominated, but "Under the Sand" was not widely seen and foreign language performances are rarely singled out. (Among the exceptions, Roberto Benigni won Best Actor in 1998 for "Life Is Beautiful," and Fernanda Montenegro was nominated for Best Actress the same year for "Central Station.")

Tautou has the same foreign-language drawback, but "Amelie" is proving a hit in the United States, and, as Swank showed two years ago, Oscar voters sometimes love fresh faces.

Zellweger's Bridget Jones was arguably one of the finest and most joyous roles of the year, but comedies generally do not play well come Oscar time. Dench has the opposite at work, starring in a film so somber it may turn off Academy members.

Watts and Birch probably are the biggest longshots, starring in movies that likely are too bizarre for Academy tastes. And with "Muholland Drive," distributor Universal Focus is pushing the key actors in supporting categories, though Academy voters are free to vote for Watts as either lead or supporting actress.

Overblown mess

Even Kidman, in delivering two of the year's best performances, has potential Oscar handicaps. Many people loved "Moulin Rouge," but some thought it was an overblown mess. And "The Sixth Sense" aside, ghost stories such as "The Others" do not have a great Academy Awards history.

ZELLWEGER. Outstanding comic portrayal in "Bridget Jones' Diary."

> The lighter field of competitors could make the best-actress category one of the liveliest in the upcoming awards season

She also faces an old Oscar dilemma: Will voters lean toward one or the other, splitting their ballots and effectively canceling out both?

Kidman herself declines to pick a favorite.

"I cannot believe that I get asked that question," Kidman said. "Because I can't believe I've got two films out that I really love. I just think as an actor, you can't say I love 'Moulin Rouge' more of 'The Others' more. I'm just grateful I got both roles."

SWANK. Graceful performance in the costume drama, "The Affair of the Necklace."

'Wet Hot American Summer' just begs to be loved

By David Germain

LOS ANGELES—With a great title, an irreverent take on kids away at camp, and an ensemble cast of goofs headed by Janeane Garofalo and David Hyde Pierce, "Wet Hot American Summer" just begs to be loved.

Sporadic humor

With only sporadic humor and a script that bores or annoys more than amuses, it's also begging for a serious wedgie.

The movie is like summer camp itself, a place you think you want to go till you arrive, then start counting the days (and wedgies) till you get to go home.

"Wet Hot American Summer" has snippets that click: An arts-and-crafts class that turns into a therapy session for the morose teacher (Molly Shannon); a softball championship called on account of apathy; a cute "Shut up!" "No, *you* shut up!" scene.

The whole thing is sloppily pieced together by director David Wain and writing-producing partner Michael Showalter, though. Between the infrequent gags that work come long stretches of drollery that squander the summer-camp premise and the stars' comedic talents.

Besides, there's not nearly enough wedgies.

Set in 1981, the movie sets out to spoof past summer-camp flicks, as if anyone needed a spoof of "Meatballs," parts one, two and three (or a reminder those movies ever existed).

Head honcho

Garofalo plays Camp Firewood head honcho Beth, acerbic around the kids and counselors, and a blithering wallflower around the object of her infatuation, geeky astrophysicist Henry (Pierce), who lives next door.

Showalter co-stars as a lovelorn counselor smitten with the camp sexpot (Marguerite Moreau). A motley mix rounds out the roster, including Shannon as a counselor comforted over a failed marriage by a precocious boy (Gideon Jacobs); Paul Rudd as a camp stud; and Christopher Meloni as a Vietnam vet-powderkeg of a cook.

Wain and Showalter are veterans of TV sketch comedy, and it shows in "Wet Hot American Summer." The movie mainly is a series of skits—a few entertaining, most of them not—stitched in a thin plot about talent-show preparations and danger from the skies as a chunk of Skylab hurtles toward Camp Firewood.

Garofalo and Pierce are fine considering the weak material. But most of the cast isn't that good at acting—or being funny.

The movie is riddled with continuity problems inherent in low-budget filmmaking: Characters going off in one direction and popping up immediately after in another context, rain falling outside in interior shots that magically vanishes when the actors walk outdoors.

Lack of continuity

The filmmakers could have turned that to their advantage, milking the lack of continuity for some laughs.

They also could have copped more of the non-sequitur humor, a la "Airplane!" or "The Naked Gun," that turns up effectively here and there, such as when Henry needs to get rid of his big physics trophy and simply hands it to some off-camera person.

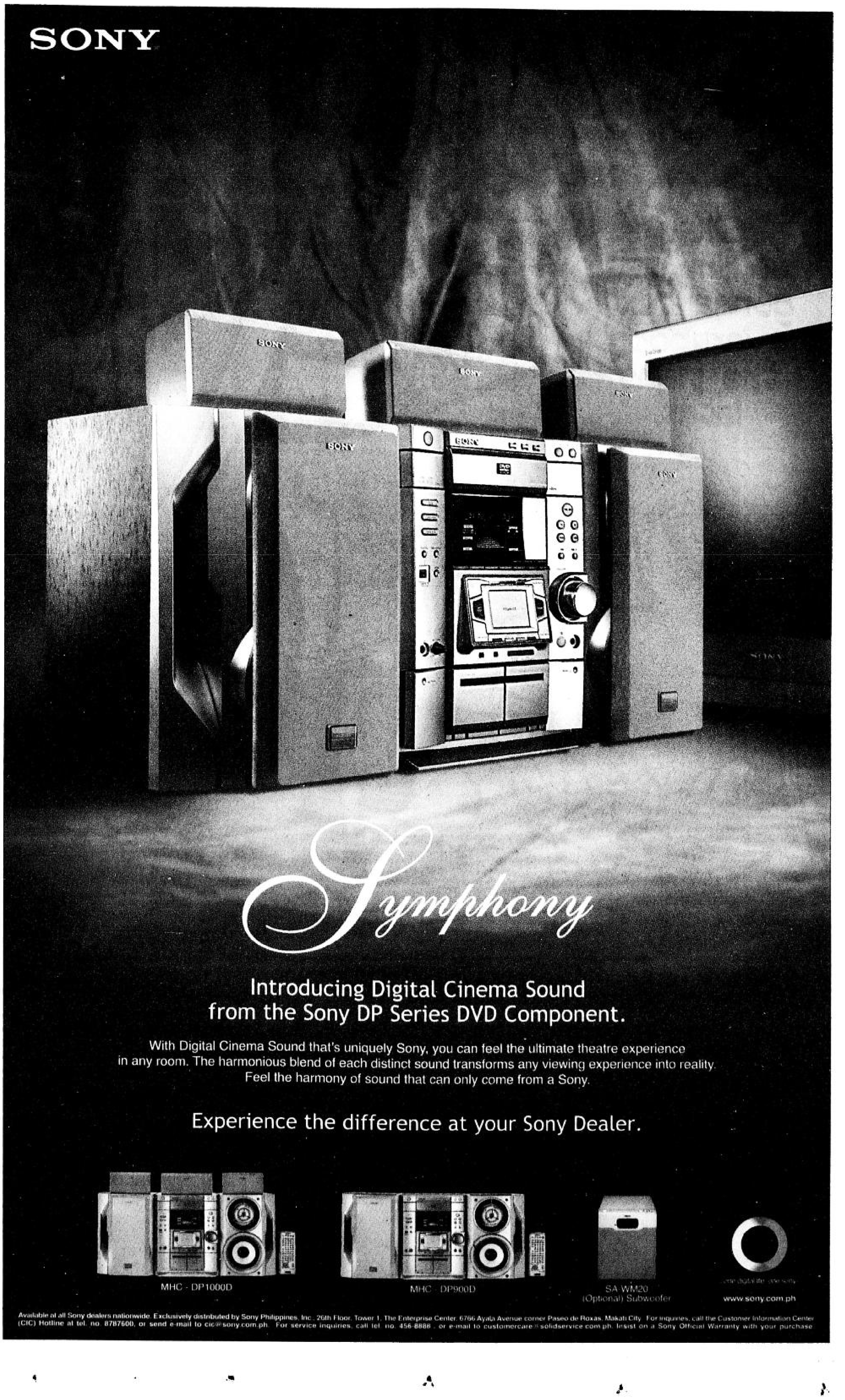
"Wet Hot American Summer" captures the era's spirit: Bad hair, really short shorts, a reference to Betamax video players, tunes that include Jefferson Starship's "Jane" and Loverboy's "Turn Me Loose."

But if we must relive the early '80s in a movie, shouldn't we get to chuckle and cringe more at the way we were?

Advice to the filmmakers: Next time, more wedgies.

"Wet Hot American Summer," runs 97 minutes.

AP



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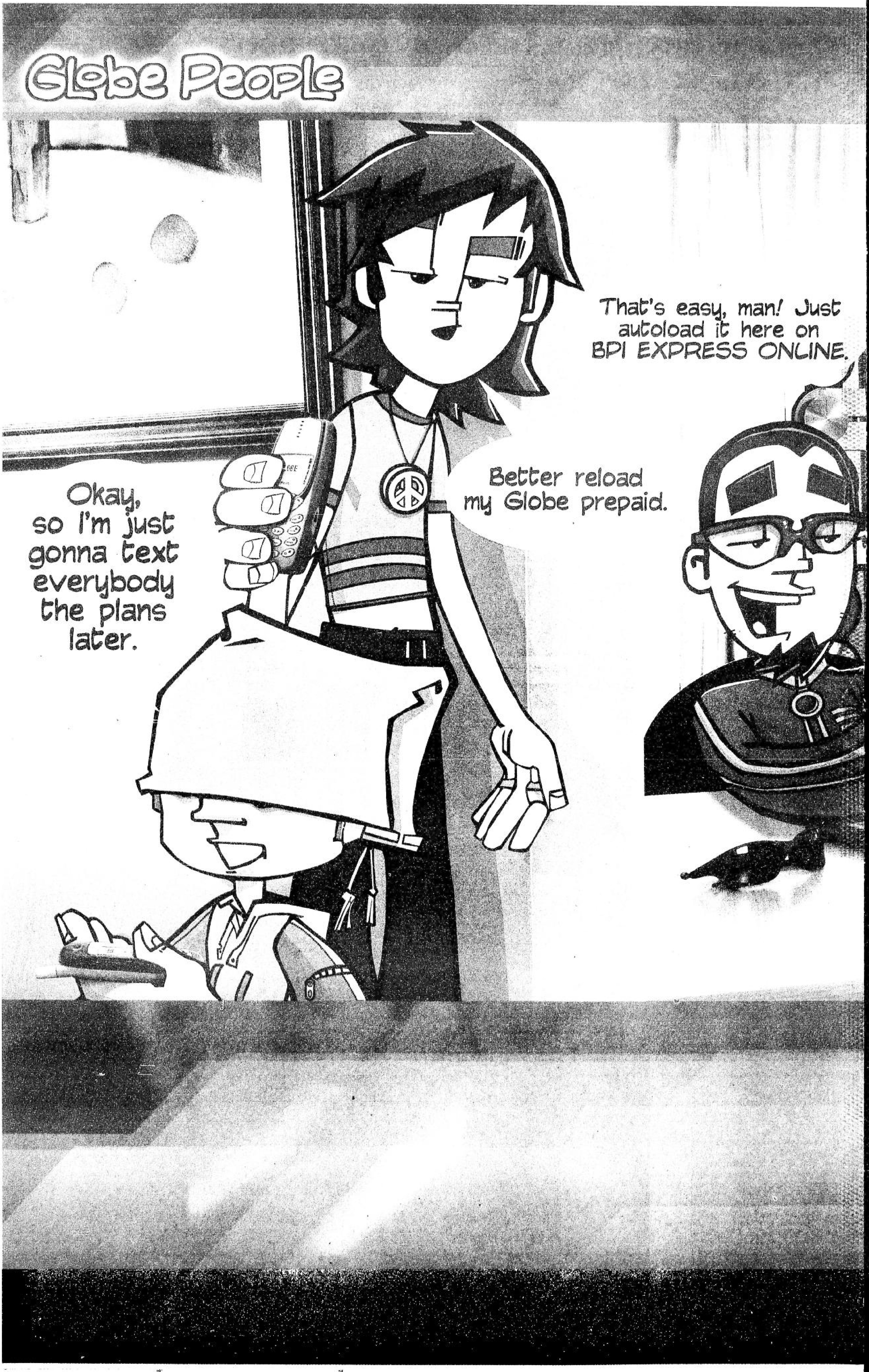
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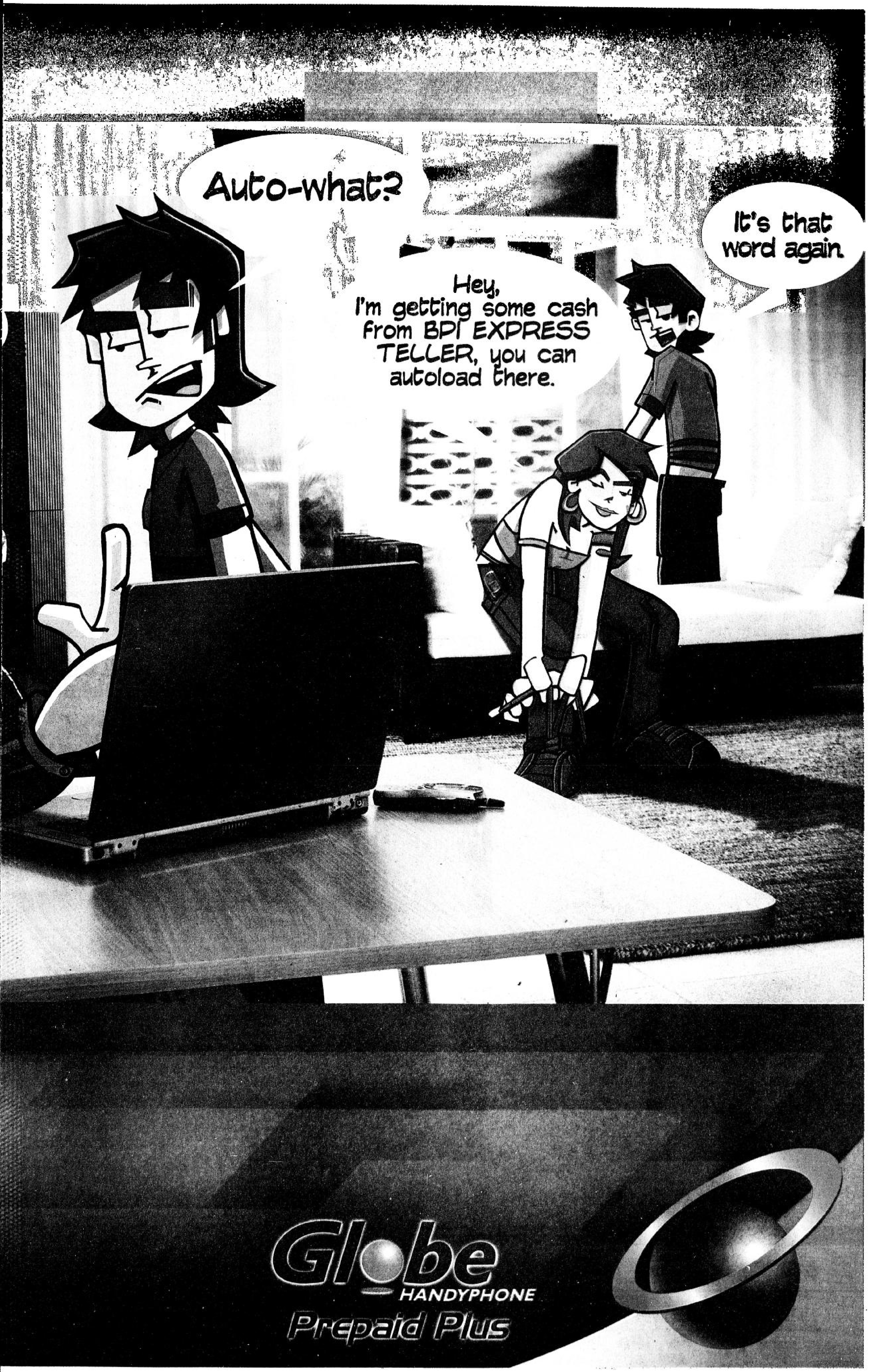
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BEATLES. The world's best-loved band.

And then there were two

By Nestor U. Torre

GEORGE Harrison's death at 58 last Nov. 29 has left a new void on the music scene. No more songs will be coming from the hand and heart of the songsmith who wrote memorable tunes like "Something," "Here Comes the Sun" and "My Sweet Lord."

Unobtrusive

The man known as "the quiet Beatle" has passed away in his characteristically unobtrusive manner, fading away like an old, sad refrain...

What a telling contrast to the sharp, loud, bloody, shocking way that John Lennon died way back in 1980, felled by shots fired by a twisted fan *and* assassin, Mark Chapman. Those were shots heard 'round the world, heralding a tragic initial diminution of the world's best-loved band.

It led to a numbing realization that, while the Beatles' songs could arguably live "forever," they themselves weren't impervious to the risks and rigors of illness--or celebrity.

Spiritual outlook

In Harrison's case, it was cancer that cut him down, but he was never heard to whine or otherwise complain during his long confinement. His pain was blunted not just by drugs, but also by his spiritual outlook on life, an elevated attitude that had become second nature to him.

As far back as the '60s, he had already drunk from the limpid pool of self-knowledge of the Eastern religions. This further prompted him to transform not just his life but also his music, with the infusion of exotic sounds from instruments like the sitar into the new songs that he composed.

LENNON. Felled by a twisted fan *and* assassin.

HARRISON. Known as "the quiet Beatle."

But this spiritual bent did not stay at the abstract, ineffectual level. It prompted him to mount fundraising shows like the concert for Bangladesh that he put together in the early '70s.

Comfort

Harrison may no longer be with us, but his loyal fans find comfort in the thought that his whole life was a song that was thoughtfully, wistfully, beautifully sung.

Now that both Lennon and Harrison have passed away, what does the future have in store for the two remaining Beatles, Paul McCartney and Ringo Starr? They continue to have their solo and band careers, but they are still best defined by the fact that once, for a number of partiicularly golden years, they were Beatles.

When comes such another group of maverick minstrels? Will either or both Paul and Ringo be part of it? And, what will they do about preserving *and* enhancing the Beatles' musical legacy to the world?

New songs

Some fans are hoping that they'll come up with new songs "in the Beatles style," but Ringo and Paul refuse to "xerox" their past in order to effect a reassuring future. That would be doing the memory of John and George a great disservice.

Rather, their best tribute to their fallen bandmates would be to continue making music as though George and John were still around. After all, for.many years, the surviving Beatles had been working physically apart but thematically together, and this is how it should continue to be.

True, the post-Beatles period has produced few songs as memorable as "Imagine" and "Yesterday," but hope springs. After all, Paul and Ringo, together with their now absent bandmates, are Beatles Forever—and Now.

'Jackpot' goes from one boring situation to the next

By Christy Lemire

NEW YORK—Usually, you can walk out of a theater after seeing a movie and know exactly what you saw. You can call up a friend and say: "Hey, Wanda. I just saw this great movie about an East German transsexual looking for love and fame—and it's a musical to boot!"

Just try explaining "Jackpot" to her, though.

Country singer

"Hey, Wanda. I just saw this movie about a woefully mediocre country singer who leaves his wife and daughter and drives across the country with his sleazy manager, competing in contests at run-down karaoke bars and hooking up with random women. Then again, he may just be a traveling soap salesman."

Was it all a dream? Was it a fantasy? Or was he really a karaoke singer, then changed his life and decided to peddle soap instead? And really, who cares?

The movie wouldn't be so annoying if it went somewhere before it left you totally baffled. Instead, the latest from identical twins Mark and Michael Polish, who made 1999's critically acclaimed "Twin Falls Idaho," merely meanders from one boring situation to the next.

Drug dealer

Jon Gries, who played Dylan's drug dealer on "Beverly Hills 90210," stars as the karaoke singer, who goes by the stage name Sunny Holiday. He dreams of fame, but you'd never know it by the flaky, halfhearted way he pursues it. He has a wife (Daryl Hannah) and a baby daughter, but his real satisfaction comes from singing George Jones' weepy "Grand Tour" over and over.

Original "Saturday Night Live" cast member Garrett Morris plays his manager, Les Irving, although how Sunny has a manager is baffling in itself. Together they travel the country in a hot pink sedan, singing, scamming people—and selling jugs of blue cleaning solution out of the trunk.

Various women throw themselves at Sunny, including a trailer-dwelling cocktail waitress (Peggy Lipton, who's strayed far, far away from "The Mod Squad") and a suburban mother (Crystal Bernard, uncharacteristically naughty in heavy black eye liner and big blond hair).

Sunny also has a bizarre moment with the second woman's Lolitaesque daughter (Camellia Clouse), who invites him up to her bedroom to "sign her yearbook" before lying chastely by his side in bed. What's the point?

HANNAH. Plays John Gries' wife in film directed by identical twins Mark and Michael Polish.

After the movie wanders and drags for about 90 minutes, all of a sudden, poof! Anthony Edwards shows up as Sunny's brother, an obsessive-compulsive motel owner, but even Dr. Greene from "ER" can't bring the movie back to life.

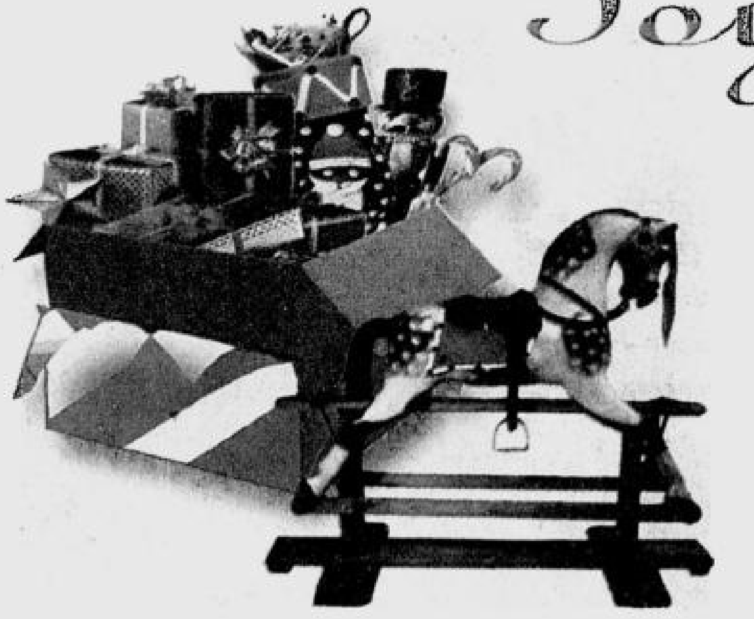
Seedy depiction

"Jackpot's" seedy depiction of the karaoke circuit is a little more interesting than the cheesy, feel-good way "Duets" played it last year. (Why shouldn't Gwyneth Paltrow be able to jump on stage and find herself by belting out "Bette Davis Eyes?")

Sunny and Les' bathroom prayer ritual before each performance is remotely amusing, as is Les' behind-the-scenes wrangling with the competition, trading Sunny's trademark George Jones song for Rupert Holmes' "Escape"—the ubiquitous "Piña Colada" song, also featured this year in "Shrek."

The movie has one other thing going for it: The Polish brothers shot it with high-definition video cameras, and the look is sharp and colorful. Where "Twin Falls Idaho," about conjoined twins and the hooker who loves them, was bleak and haunting, "Jackpot" is crisp and bright.

But looking good can't make the characters or the situations interesting, and it can't assuage the feeling of being cheated at the end. *AP*



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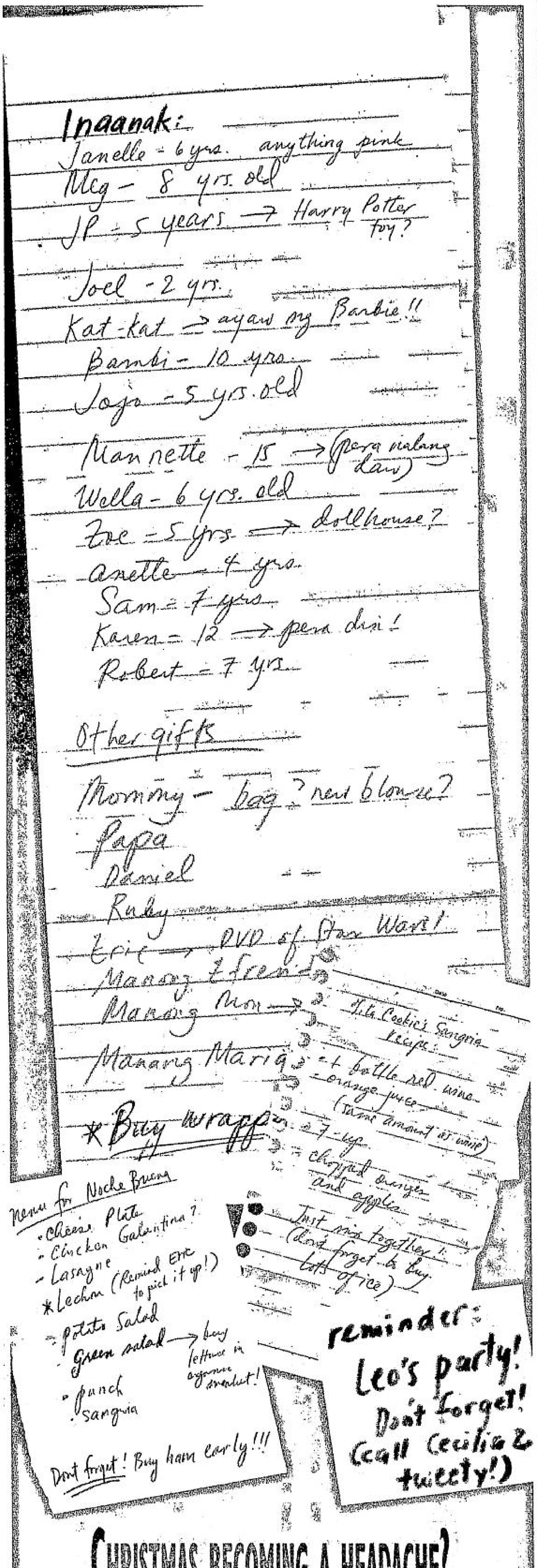
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Meg - 8 yrs. old
JP - 5 years → Harry Potter toy?
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Jojo - 5 yrs. old
Mannette - 15 → (pera nalang daw)
Wella - 6 yrs. old
Zoe - 5 yrs → dollhouse?
anette - 4 yrs.
Sam - 7 yrs.
Karen - 12 → pera din!
Robert - 7 yrs.
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Papa
Daniel
Ruby
Eric → DVD of Star Wars!
Manong Efren
Manong Mon
Manang Maria
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*Lechon (Remind Eric to pick it up!)
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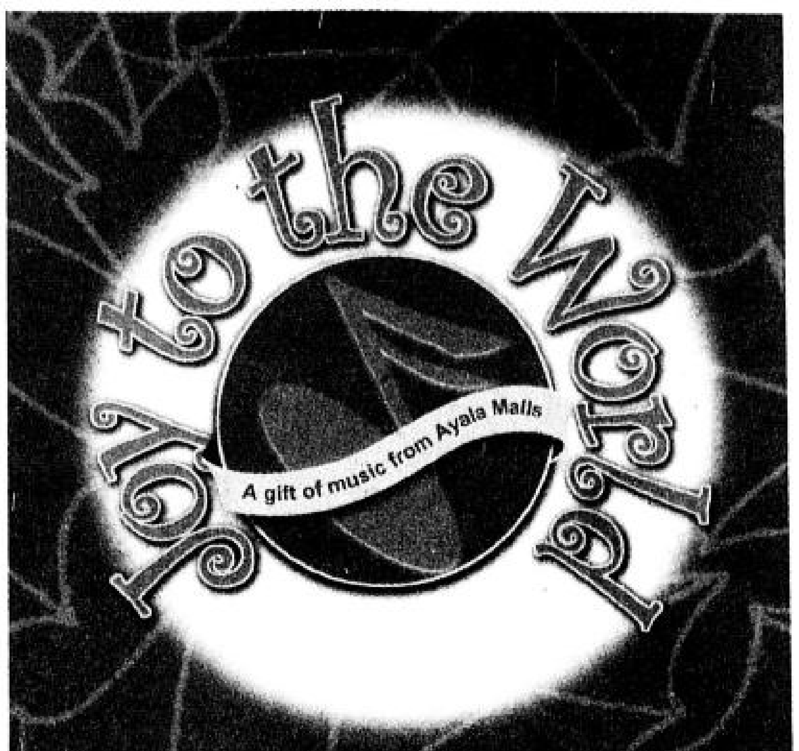
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Walt Disney remembered on his birth centennial

BY LEON BRUNEAU

DISNEY. Animator who built an entertainment empire.

WASHINGTON—Wednesday marks the 100th anniversary of the birthday of Walt Disney, the animator who built an entertainment empire on characters such as Mickey Mouse and innovative filmmaking techniques.

Documentary

The Walt Disney Co.-owned ABC television network aired a documentary Sept. 16 chronicling the life of the company founder, who was born Dec. 5, 1901, in Chicago.

The Disney World theme park in Florida, which Disney was planning when he died in 1966, is celebrating "100 Years of Magic" through Dec. 31.

Walter Elias Disney—named after the family's pastor and his father, Elias—grew up in Missouri, where his family moved when he was five.

He had already begun studying art when the US entry into World War I prompted him to volunteer as an ambulance driver in France, lying about his age in order to enlist.

After the war, Disney returned to Kansas City, worked as a commercial artist and began making animated films.

After a series of business failures, Disney moves to Hollywood in 1923 and joined his brother Roy in founding an animation studio in a reconverted garage.

Most famous character

Mickey Mouse, Disney's most famous character, was "born" in 1928 and quickly became the world's most famous animated character.

Mickey soon was followed by other well-known Disney characters such as Donald Duck, Goofy and Pluto.

Disney released his first feature film, "Snow White and the Seven Dwarves" in 1937 and also experimented with animation set to music, which culminated in the release of "Fantasia" in 1940.

Live-action films were added with the release of "Treasure Island" in 1950.

When World War II broke out, Disney's studios were briefly seized by army troops, and spent most of the war making training films after finishing work in 1942 on "Bambi."

In all, Disney produced more than 600 feature films and animated shorts, winning 29 Oscars and hundreds of other prizes.

Amusement industry

In the postwar period, Disney turned his attention to the amusement industry, opening the giant Disneyland park in Anaheim, California, in 1955. Another park, Disney World, which opened in Florida in 1971, included Disney's dream of a new city: the Experimental Prototype Community of Tomorrow, or Epcot.

But Disney did not live to see that dream realized, dying of cancer Dec. 15, 1996.

Since then, his company has become a worldwide entertainment giant. *AFP*

ELTON JOHN. After 40 albums, time to get out.

Elton John bids sad goodbye to record biz

LONDON—British pop superstar Elton John has told US fans that he is sick of the record industry and will not be making any more albums, newspapers here reported Monday.

Sell-out show

The 54-year-old singer songwriter, whose hits include 'Candle in the Wind" and "Rocket Man," stunned a crowd of 12,000 concertgoers at a sell-out show at the Verizon Wireless Arena in Manchester, New Hampshire on Friday last week by announcing that his latest album, the critically acclaimed "Songs from the West Coast," would be his last.

"I'm fed up with it. I like playing to you guys but I hate the record industry," Sir Elton was quoted as saying.

"I've made 40 albums and its about time for me to get out."

He ended his concert with a tribute to ex-Beatle George Harrison, who died of cancer in Los Angeles Thursday at the age of 58.

Congratulatory telegram

He said that when he first came to the United States, and his album "Elton John" was No. 18 on the charts, Harrison sent him a congratulatory telegram.

"I've never forgotten that gesture. It was such a mind-blowing gesture," he said.

"I want to dedicate ('Your Song') to him for all the wonderful music he's given us over the years. Wherever you are, George, be happy. God Bless You." *AFP*

Saturday SPECIAL

WILKINSON. Rose to stardom in 'The Full Monty.'

Critics are 'talking Oscar' for Britain's Wilkinson

By Paul Majendie

LONDON—Critics are "talking Oscar" after British actor Tom Wilkinson's acclaimed performance opposite Sissey Spacek in the small-budget movie "In The Bedroom."

Glowing reviews

But the diffident actor, who rose to stardom in "The Full Monty," is keeping his feet firmly on the ground as glowing American reviews roll in to his London home.

The fax has been humming from his US publicist after the film, an evocative study of a Maine family in crisis by first-time director Todd Field, proved to be a surprise hit.

"Oscar would be a fool not to salute the career-crowning performances of Sissey Spacek and Tom Wilkinson." said Rolling Stone critic Peter Travers after the film's American launch.

But the British character actor who rose through television and stage ranks to his first Hollywood lead role refuses to be carried away by the hype.

"I'm sitting here with my feet firmly on the ground which is exactly where they should be," the 53-year-old actor told Reuters at his north London home as his daughters popped their heads around the door to say "Hi" on return from school.

"I haven't succeeded yet but I am starting to make a bit of a name there," he said of his rise in the Hollywood firmament.

"And, who knows? Fingers crossed, touch wood—this film may do very well indeed."

Big breakthrough

"This would be the big breakthrough. This is a lead and so far it has had rather a remarkable reception," said the actor who also starred opposite Mel Gibson in "The Patriot."

Wilkinson and Spacek shared a special jury prize at Robert Redford's 2001 Sundance Film festival for their acting. And he is fiercely proud of what they achieved in the quietly devastating domestic drama.

Spacek, who won a 1980 Oscar for her role in "Coal Miner's Daughter," first watched "In the Bedroom" with Wilkinson at the Sundance screening.

Wilkinson recalls: "I said to Sissy, what is really amazing is we look as if we are married to each other. There is something in that unspoken casual intimacy of the body language."

Wilkinson is the first to admit his career, which took another leap forward with his role as the moneylender in the Oscar-winning "Shakespeare in Love," was a slow-burning fuse.

Crescendo

"It is reaching a nice crescendo after having had its florid cadenzas and its andante passages," he said, happy that his career had not peaked a quarter of a century earlier.

He is quietly determined to make it big in Hollywood and is mercilessly frank about the state of the British film industry.

"There is an awful lot of crap made in Britain. The problem with British filmmakers is they don't spend enough time getting the script right."

"If you are going to make movies, you have got to keep one foot in the Los Angeles camp. That is the big table," he said. *Reuters*

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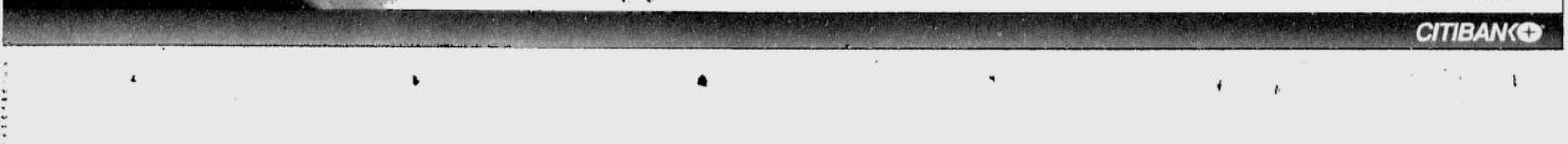

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'Portrait' with a gender twist

BY BEHN CERVANTES

THE IDEA of staging Nick Joaquin's "Portrait of An Artist as a Filipino" with two brothers instead of two spinster sisters was the result of an observation we once made while discussing the 1960's Albee classic "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf."

Clash

We noted that the clash between Martha and George was not clearly heterosexual. It dwelt on a level that was suspiciously gay. Then, someone said that indeed the play was meant to be about gay relationships but the times then weren't quite ready for such a play.

Of course, a few gay plays were met with critical and audience success, as evidenced by the popular and hilarious "Boys In The Band." But, that was the thing: "BITB" was a comedy. To be serious about homosexual relationships would have been a different story during those times, when most gay matters remained in the privacy of one's closet.

Anton Juan, my former student, and I liked to point out that Bette Davis, whom Martha apes at the start of "Virginia Woolf," was a fag hag of sorts. So is the beautiful Elizabeth Taylor who portrayed the acidic Martha on screen. Her scathing performance earned her a second Academy Award.

As a lark, Anton and I thought of producing that play with a twist. The clashing tandems would be made up of four men instead of two heterosexual pairs. It would work, too, we thought. We had already appeared in Genet's "The Maids," after all. This would be an even more challenging endeavor, we concluded.

Strange reason

We planned to stage it as such, and in fact started casting the characters. For some strange reason, Anton thought I would be best for Martha. He would play the rather asinine younger girl. Nestor Torre came to mind for the character of George. Tommy Abuel could play the fourth character. Since we were all friends, there would be great rapport among the participants of this painfully intimate play.

CORA Custodio (left) and Myrna Castillo in the author's production of the play in the States.

NIEVES Campa and Joy Soler de Castro in another staging of 'Portrait.'

We were excited about it but we never got to realize our plans. It's been many years since we hatched the idea. Staging "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf" requires ample time for rehearsals, dedication and a lot of emotional energy from the actors. I don't think it is something you can bring off successfully unless the actors immerse themselves thoroughly in rehearsals because the characters' demands are emotionally enervating. "Woolf" has since become one of those things we have shelved 'For the Future.'

However, one wintry day in New York when I recalled the "Woolf" concept, I thought about other plays that could also have that sex change without literary damage being done. In fact, the conflict would probably become even more stark and dramatic with the change.

Tagalog adaptation

I thought a Tagalog adaptation of Strinberg's "Miss Julie" as "*Señor* Julio" would dramatically improve with that gender alteration. In like manner, I once staged "Twelve Angry Men" as "Twelve Angry Women" with hardly a difference as a result of the gender change. I did so because the original play revolving around a jury of 12 men would not have allowed me to cast women. In a university set-up, you should find equal opportunities for the sexes when you stage a school production. It worked out very well with the 12 women.

In the last few years, there have been many productions of Nick Joaquin's best-known play, "Portrait of An Artist As a Filipino." It met great success and critical approval when Barangay Theater Guild headed by National Artists Bert and Daisy Avellana first produced it in the early '50s at the Mehan Gardens in Intramuros. It was a great production. Daisy, Naty Crame Rogers, Nick Agudo, Sarah Joaquin, Manny Ojeda and others remain etched in my early dramatic memories.

I watched it when I was merely a freshman in high school. I was thoroughly entranced by the clearly delineated direction, the acting of the fine cast, as well as the poignancy of the conflict. I loved the play.

Definitive staging

"Portrait" has been staged many times since then. Nevertheless, the Avellanas' staging of it remains the definitive one. I myself directed it in 1982 with Barbara Perez and Susan Valdez as Candida and Paula for the UP Repertory Company. We even brought the play to Iloilo and Bacolod where the production was met with universal approval.

It's been translated into Tagalog, made into a film by Bert Avellana, turned into a musical by Ryan Cayabyab and not too long ago was staged in Tagalog, Spanish and the original English. How then to stage it with a twist?

One lazy evening while Anton and I went mulling over the future, he said, "Why don't you act again? Why don't *we* act together?" suggesting the original "Woolf" concept. I countered, "Why don't we do 'Portrait?' We play two brothers instead of two sisters. We won't camp it up. We'll play its for real."

ANTON Juan and the author rehearse another play in the '70s.

Two closet queens who take in a young male border would be more scandalous, given the time frame of the plot, I've always thought.

Anton was excited. He had produced the play himself. He could clearly see himself as Paula, I mean Pablo. Deep down in their melodramatic hearts, directors enjoy acting. It is less taxing. You can attend to yourself. So, he could play Pablo, and I could be Candido, the elder brother.

Mentor-student relationship

Here we go again with our mentor-student relationship, I told him. I have acted for Anton and many of my other students even while they were still in college. The stage arena is very democratic, indeed.

We sat down to plan the production. At first, I suggested we would co-direct the production but we have divergent styles. He could go ahead and direct it since Joaquin was the subject of his doctoral thesis, after all. He promised he would bend an ear when needed.

We cast the play and received greater acceptance from many others who thought the idea was original, too. In fact, President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo expressed interest after Anton mentioned it to her when she saw a play at UP.

Before anything, I insisted we get Nick Joaquin's permission before we proceeded with serious plans. That was crucial. When the author gave it with the proviso that we did not caricature the play and did not turn it vulgar and/or screaming-gay, the signal turned green.

Rehearsals for "Portrait" with a gender twist have begun. The more controversial but equally dramatic production of the classic will be staged this February at the Cultural Center of Philippines. More news to follow, surely!

Latest GMA soap is not really all that new

BY NESTOR U. TORRE

LAST Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday at 7 p.m., we caught the first installments of Channel 7's new weeknight soap opera, "Sana Ay Ikaw na Nga," topbilling the new TV love team of Dingdong Dantes and Tanya Garcia, supported by the erstwhile TV-movie romantic tandem of Angelu de Leon and Bobby Andrews.

Fiesta scene

In keeping with local practice for new soaps, the drama series had a big start last Monday, with a fiesta scene involving scores of extras framing the "love at first sight" meeting of Dingdong and Tanya.

Soon after that big opening, however, the program quickly revealed its shortcomings: one coincidence after another, cardboard characters, implausible situations, old-fashioned plot premises and conventions, villains galore crawling out of the woodwork, and too many characters for the production to adequately handle, and for viewers to comfortably assimilate.

Thankfully, these debit points are balanced by some plusses: the show's young leads are goodlooking, some textured character performances give the storytelling an occasionally solid core, and striking settings, visualizations and lighting give the production a dynamic edge.

Old-hat premises

On the whole, however, the series' old-hat premises and implausibilities continue to hold sway. Put these in your pipe and smoke them:

Tanya is lovely but poor (how original) and has a leper (Jaclyn Jose) for a mother. Her younger sister is a little snit, and her stepfather (Tirso Cruz III) is a nasty grouch.

For his part, Dingdong is very rich and is engaged to be married to an even wealthier young woman whom he doesn't really love (no wonder, she's a super-bitch).

DANTES. Love at first sight.

Despite her lousy social graces, Dingdong is marrying her to boost his family's economic standing. For her part, Angelu is bent on making the marriage push through because one of the families did something really horrible to her in the distant past, and she wants to avenge herself on them.

To make her obsessive need for vengeance more personal, we are shown a huge scar on Angelu's back, which we take as a terrible emblem of the evil family's cruelty to her.

Then there's Dingdong's brother (Wendell Ramos) who chafes at being unfairly compared all the time to his golden-boy, *niño bonito* sibling, so we can expect dire actions to come from his corner of their fetid mansion in episodes to come.

Bereft of options

Aside from the warped characters who people this new soap, another distraction is the utter poverty of Tanya's character. How can someone so lovely be so bereft of options in life, other than sewing *basahan* for jeepney drivers?

The names of the male characters in the series are also a caution: Like the Mexican telenovelas that have obviously inspired this production, the young male characters here have multiple names like Carlos Miguel and Jose Enrique. Well, excuse *us*!

It obviously doesn't matter to the people behind these shows that most wealthy young Pinoys are quite happy with only one monicker. Imported melodramas are ornate in this and other ways, so local soaps should slavishly copy them, in the hope of attaining a similar success—?

Fact is, imported soaps aren't the only productions copied by this new series. It also makes deep obeisances to old Filipino film melodramas from the '50s, where rich-poor romances, coincidences, cliches, stereotypes, vengeance themes and local *kontrabida* culture were first foisted on viewers.

First meeting

In addition, Dingdong and Tanya's first meeting, with its use of masks and crowds whirling around our star-crossed lovers in glorious slow-motion, is straight out of "Romeo and Juliet," Franco Zeffirelli-style.

All these influences and/or "hommages" conspire to make this new soap retrace old steps rather than blaze new trails.

So much for freshness and innovation. If this new soap becomes a hit, that could indicate that the new audience that has made itself felt on the local film front, has yet to seize control of the TV screen as well.

ALMA with two other performers.

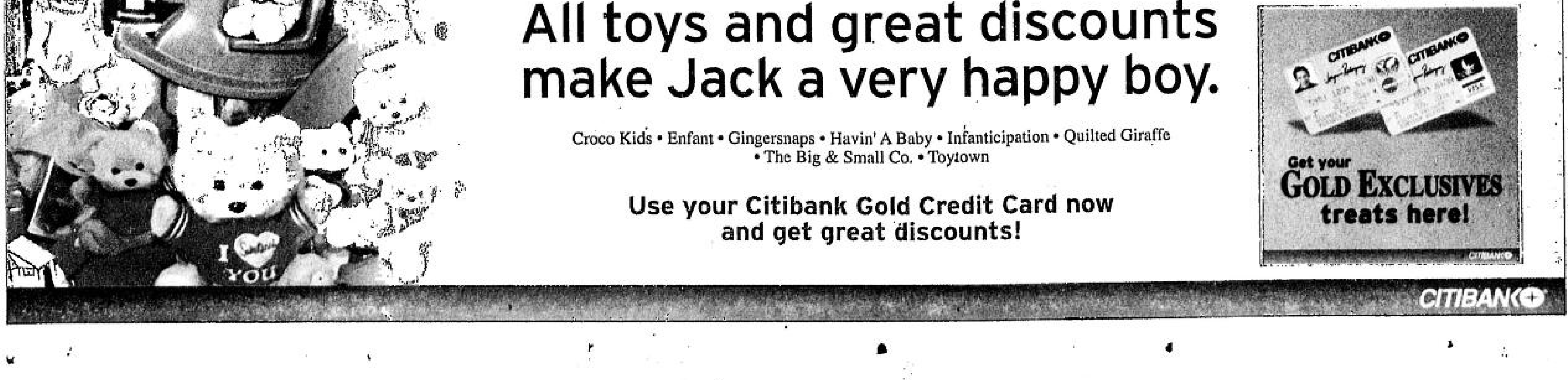
Another World celebrates second anniversary

ALMA Moreno topbills a full-cast presentation as her famous sing-along bar and grill on Dr. A. Santos ave. in Parañaque City, Another World, celebrates its second anniversary tonight.

Joining Alma in the musicale are Raffy Chan, her talented dancing partner since her television days, and The Kit-Kats, composed of talents she herself has helped blossom into the versatile performers that they are now. The Kit-Kats are Norman, Nimfa, Michael and Mida.

Completing the evening's roster of performers are the bar-grill's regular hosts, Madinna (Monday), Reggie (Monday and Thursday), Tweety (Thursday, Friday and Saturday) and Martin (Saturday).

"If you want to dance the night away," says Alma, "Another World offers ballroom dancing with a live band and dance instructors on Tuesdays."



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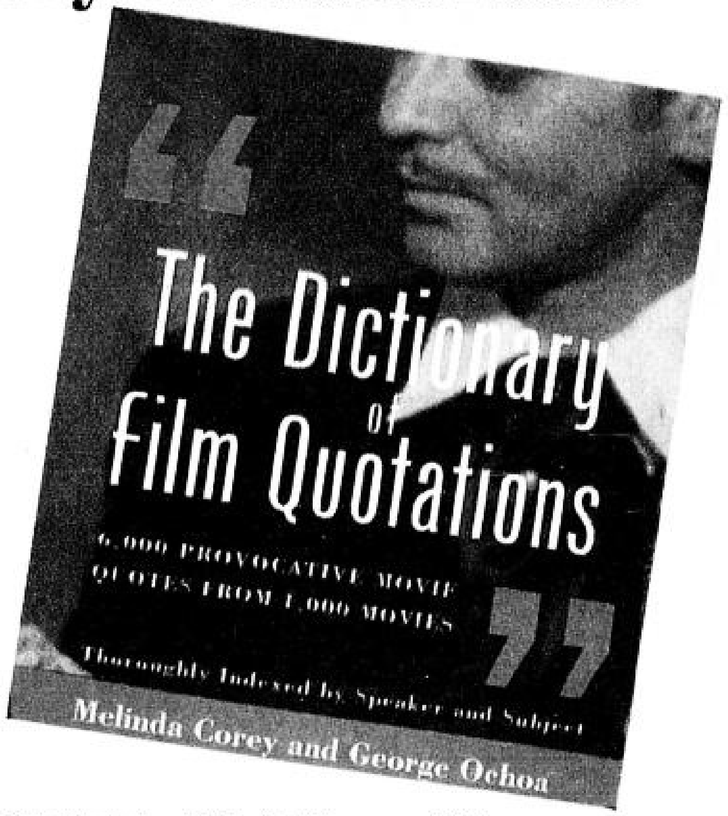
ENTERTAINMENT BOOKSHELF

'The Dictionary of Film Quotations' is a rich repository of memorable movie dialogue

BY NOELANI TORRE


The Dictionary of Film Quotations
6,000 PROVOCATIVE MOVIE QUOTES FROM 1,000 MOVIES
Thoroughly Indexed by Speaker and Subject
Melinda Corey and George Ochoa

LOVE is the most discussed subject in the book.

'THE DICTIONARY of Film Quitations" contains, as its cover boasts, "6,000 provocative movie quotes from 1,000 movies" which, moreover, are "thoroughly indexed by speaker and subject."

Undiscovered gems

Published by Crown Trade Paperbacks and compiled by Melinda Corey and George Ochoa, this hefty but manageable semi-tome is a rich repository of immensely quotable lines, some previously undiscovered gems and some which are already part of our day-to-day lingo.

"Go ahead, make my day," that famous Clint Eastwood (Dirty Harry) challenge to a thug, is here, as is Marie the kitten's delicate admonition, "Ladies don't start fights, but they finish them," from the animated movie, "The Aristocats."

The book is arranged alphabetically according to the films' titles, and the quoted lines are listed chronologically by order of their appearance in the film. If they are definitive first and last lines, this is also indicated. Other useful information—the film's director, screenwriter/s, studio, and year of release—is provided as well. All in all, it's a very helpful and entertaining book to have around, whether you use it for reference purposes or you leaf through it for the simple pleasure of savoring your favorite movie lines.

Three books

The authors, Melinda Corey and George Ochoa, are a husband and wife team who already have three books to their name—"The Book of Answers," "A Cast of Thousands," and "The Manin Lincoln's Nose." They have also completed the revision of Ephraim Katz's "The Film Encyclopedia."

Corey and Ochoa compiled these quotes through original research. "We watched hundreds of movies to choose quotes and re-watched many parts of them to verify what we had chosen," they explain in their introduction.

"Viewing films was necessary, because it was the only way to assure accuracy. Published screenplays often do not accurately represent the dialogue spoken on screen. Only if repeated viewings yielded indecipherable transciptions, did we turn to screenplays for assistance." Thus most of the quotes in this book appear in print for the first time.

The 1,000 films from which they glean their quotations are "a representative sampling" of the past 80 years of filmmaking. Most of these are English-language sound films though a few silent films, like "Potemkin," are included, as well as some foreign films such as "Grand Illusion" and "Babette's Feast."

The authors chose "the most acclaimed, popular, and characteristic films of the day." So here we see Academy Award-winners, box-office blockbusters and various cult favorites. The authors admit, however, that the book "unavoidably reflects our idiosyncratic preferences."

Memories

As the editors sum it up in the introduction, "Horror films, from James Whale to David Cronenberg are well-represented, as is science fiction, from famous ('2001: A Space Odyssey') to the infamous ('Plan 9 From Outer Space').

"We also more than sampled the canons of John Ford, Howard Hawks, and Frank Capra, largely to record memories of the voices of Cary Grant, James Stewart, and John Wayne."

They made good choices—"many of the noteworthy quips retorts, speeches, declarations, and social commentary spoken over the century of filmmaking." We get 19 quotations from Time's movie of the century, "Citizen Kane," from the first cryptic line, "Rosebud," to the last—"Throw that junk in," spoken as Rosebud is thrown into the flames.

Here too is Arnold Schwazenegger's star-making line in "Terminator 2"—"Hasta la vista, baby," frequently uttered by Bart Simpson and now part and parcel of the American language.

We look up Greta Garbo and her on-screen and real life creed, "I want to be alone" (from the Edmund Goulding—directed "Grand Hotel"). Bogey despairs about Bergman in the 18th quoted line from "Casablanca"—"Of all the gin joints in all the towns in all the world, she walks into mine." And of course, who can forget his trademark "Here's looking at you, kid."

"The Godfather" (Parts I-III) has a total of 49 quoted lines, from the very first, "I believe in America," to the very popular "I'm gonna make him an offer he can't refuse."

Mafioso advice

Mafioso advice is liberally given as Al Pacino recalls his father's (Marlon Brando) words, "Keep your friends close, but your enemies closer." And himself dispenses wisdom to his nephew (Andy Garcia)—"Never hate your enemies; it affects your judgement."

"Gone With The Wind" also gets a lot of space, with Vivien Leigh and Clark Gable's dramatic speeches and confrontations. Line 10 is Leigh's (Scarlett O'Hara) soliloquy of sorts—"As God is my witness, as God is my witness, they're not going to lick me! I'm going to live through this, and when it's all over, I'll never be hungry again—no, nor any of my folks! If I have to lie, steal, cheat, or kill—as God is my witness, I'll never be hungry again!"

Gable's famed "Frankly, my dear, I don't give a damn" is also here, as is the well-remembered last line, "Tara! Home! I'll go home, and I'll think of some way to get him back. After all, tomorrow is another day!"

Themes

The subject index has themes listed from accidents and Democrats, to murder and youth. Love is the subject oft discussed, judging from the list of quotes under it.

Keye Luke (Dr. Yang) in Woody Allen's "Alice" explains it to Mia Farrow (Alice): "Love is most complex emotion. Human beings unpredictable. No logic to emotion. Where there is no logic there is no rational thought. Where there is no rational thought, there can be much romance, but much suffering." As for Mary Boland (Coun (Countless DeLove) in "The Women" she can only say "L'amour, l' amour. Toujours l' amour!"

New lines

One encounters old and new lines even when just browsing through this book. (We read an ultra-cynical line from an animated character, for example, "You've heard of the golden rule? He who has the gold, makes the rules.")

We glean snippets of Hollywood wisdom on such diverse topics as sex, elephants and aliens. We meet all sorts of characters, such as the one who uttered the above-mentioned line, Jafar from "Aladdin."

"For us," say the authors, "movie voices have long lived in our minds. They pop up regularly to comfort ('L'amour!'), put things in perspective ('Everybody in Casablanca has problems. Yours may work out'), even advise on dinner ('some fava beans and a nice chianti').

We expect that, to some degree, the same will be true for readers of 'The Dictionary of Film Quotations.' Helping to nurture such a happy obsession has been our intent in this book."

As for us, we can say for certain that this is one dictionary we wouldn't mind reading from cover to cover!

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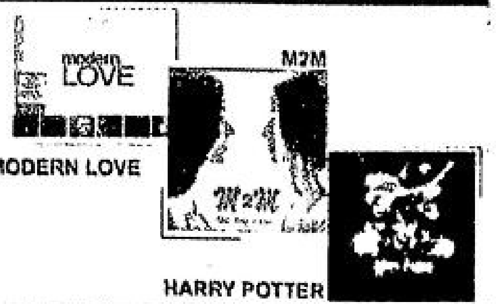

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Cartoon Network celebrates Christmas with festive toon special

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Reply

Dec. 15: "Town That Santa Forgot." Living in this town is a privileged boy who has plenty of toys, but still wants a lot more. He decides to write Santa a note asking for more gifts when his mom says no. The reply and results are not quite what he was counting on.

Dec. 16: "Yogi's All-star Comedy Christmas Caper." Yogi Bear and Boo Boo roll into Jellystone Park to celebrate Christmas with friends and this results in helping little Judy's Christmas wish come true.

Dec. 17: "A Jetsons' Christmas Carol." George Jetson's boss, Mr Spacely, hates Christmas and forces George to work overtime over the holidays. Check it out and see whether this space age Scrooge will ever get into the Christmas spirit.

Dec. 18: "Casper's First Christmas." Casper and his wacky ghostly chum, Hairy Scary, are preparing to spend winter alone in a dilapidated, old house until merry-makers arrive in the form of Yogi Bear, Boo Boo and friends.

Dec. 19: "The Nutcracker Scoob." Scooby and the gang visit a children's home during Christmas and find themselves involved in a mysterious treasure hunt.

Extra money

Dec. 20: "Christmas Flintstones." Fred takes a job at Macyrock department store to earn extra money for Christmas gifts. In a surprising turn of events, he ends up having to substitute for Santa. A Christmas story not to be missed!

Dec. 21: "A Christmas Story." Gumdrop, a kind-hearted mouse, enlists the aid of a huge, stumbling dog named Goober in his quest to deliver a little boy's letter to Santa Claus before Christmas day.

Dec. 22: "The Ghost of Christmas Paddington." At Christmas, a con man convinces Paddington that his "White Glove" vacuum cleaners are just the thing to sell and raise money for gifts. The trouble is, the vacuum cleaners have no motors. Paddington and Mr. Curry finally join forces to help the police corner the sleazy schemer.

CARTOON NETWORK
JOHN

ON CHRISTMAS Eve, Johnny Bravo has to take over Santa's delivery job.

Dec. 23: "Christmas Comes to Pacland." Pac-Man is carted in to assist Santa on his appointed rounds after he develops sleigh trouble. For the first time, his family enjoys the holiday as Christmas comes to Pacland.

On Christmas Eve, Dec. 24. "Tom & Jerry—The Night Before Christmas." In this Yuletide celebration, Christmas Eve finds Jerry Mouse running merrily around the tree, jumping from the ornaments to a plush lion to surprise the famous feline foe, Tom. A swift escape on a toy train and a brief wrestle with a sprig of mistletoe ensues. It's classic Tom & Jerry antics with a seasonal Christmas twist.

Noises

"Johnny Bravo—Twas the Night." On Christmas Eve, Johnny Bravo is surprised to hear noises coming from his rooftop. Thinking that it's a burglar, Johnny heads to the roof and takes out an innocent Santa Claus! With Santa now injured, Johnny must take on the present delivery job and reach everyone on the long, present list.

"The Captain's Christmas." On Christmas Eve, the Captain decides to surprise Hans and Fritz by dressing up as Santa Claus. But the Captain's plans go up the chimney, when the pirates rob him of his Santa Claus suit!

On Christmas Day, Dec. 25: "How the Grinch Stole Christmas." Legendary children's author Dr. Seuss tells the popular story of the Christmas-hating 6rinch who has a heart of stone.

"Dexter's Laboratory—Dexter vs. Santa's Claws." Dee Dee uses the laboratory computer to send her wish list to Santa Claus as a cynical Dexter mocks her. He doesn't believe in Father Christmas and devises a plan to capture Santa and shave off his trademark, white beard.

Formula

"Courage the Cowardly Dog—Snowman Cometh." An evil snowman conjures up a formula that would make all humans melt while preserving his kind. Courage must call on all his wits and tricks to save his owners from a Christmas melt-down!

"Ed, Edd n Eddy—Fa-La-La-La-Ed." After Edd brings up Christmas, Ed is convinced that Santa Claus is watching his every move. He refuses to do anything that could be interpreted as "naughty." Meanwhile, Edd steadfastly refuses to stand under Ed's mistletoe!

"I Am Weasel—I.R.'s First Bike." Baboon receives a bicycle from Santa Claus for Christmas. Not knowing how to ride a bike, he takes unconventional lessons from Weasel. Using gadget after gadget, Baboon tries desperately to successfully pilot the two-wheeler!

"I Am Weasel—Happy Baboon Holidays." Baboon's family arrives for a surprise visit and instantly find the Christmas spirit in Weasel's home. Struck by jealousy and feeling no love and warmth, Baboon turns into a Grinch. Can Weasel come to the rescue and show his pal the true meaning of Christmas?

Pit bull

"George and Junior's Christmas Spectacular." George and Junior must fill-in for Santa and deliver a present, but first, they must get past a pit bull who definitely is not in the Christmas spirit.

"The Popeye Show—Seasin's Greetinks." Even the generous spirit of Christmas can't tame Popeye and Brutus' struggle for the love of Olive Oyl! An ice-skating ring becomes a circus as Popeye rescues his love on a pair of skates!

"The Pup's Christmas." It is Christmas morning and the little pups are frightened by all the gifts under the tree . . . however, they soon overcome their fear and get into the Christmas spirit.

"Peace on Earth." Nominated for an Academy Award, this classic MGM short illustrates what Christmas and Peace are all about.

"Yogi's First Christmas." Yogi Bear and Boo Boo experience Christmas for the first time when they are awakened by the annual Christmas celebrations of Huckleberry Hound and friends.

AM/FM

Bangkok on-air, onscreen and off

By Rito P. Asilo

ON OUR recent visit to Thailand, we were in awe of the number and variety of tourists wherever we went. We wondered why the Philippines couldn't muster the numbers that Thai tourism enjoys, despite the numerous tourist attractions we have around the country. Add to that the fact that we speak English more fluently than any other country in Asia.

Westernized

Is it simply the bad rap that continuously bugs the Philippines everytime it gets written about in international broadsheets? Or is it because we are not as "exotic" as Thailand, because our culture has become so westernized that we have lost our individuality?

But, when you think about it, there really is not much difference. We look the same. Even the types of music we listen to are the same.

When we listened to Thai radio, we found out that Thais shared the same sentimentality predominant in Filipino music. The rhythm, tone, arrangement and melody were not much different. Except for the language.

Popular singers

We watched their popular singers like Farra (who looked like a plumper Regine but sang like Viktoria), Handy Black (a four-man rock group), Teerapak (who looked like singer-actor Calvin Millado), and heard a couple of duets from Harvey M and Sheila M, and Zul and Liza Hanim.

But none of them could match the vocal prowess of our Jayas, Lanis, Zsa Zsas, Regines, or even our Carol Banawas and Roselle Navas.

Upon learning that we came from the Philippines, a Thai acquaintance said, "Oh, Filipinos! You are great musicians and singers!," and we couldn't have been prouder!

We listened to Thai pop superstar, Thongchai's "Smile Club" album. If the canto-pop nation has Jackie Cheung (remember his duet, "In Love with You," with Regine Velasquez?) or Andy Lau (check out his collaboration, "In Your Eyes," with megastar Sharon Cuneta in the latter's latest album.), Thongchai is Thailand's answer to those names.

THONGCHAI. Thai pop superstar.

But, after listening to the 12-track compilation, we were sure our Gary and Martin could sing circles around him.

Most songs that you'll hear on Bangkok radio are in Thai, but they do have very popular FM stations which carry English-language songs.

Flea market

While checking out the huge Chatuchak shopping complex, a huge flea market not unlike our Divisoria and Tutuban, we found out that most shops there were tuned to the city's most popular FM station, 95.5, which boasted of English-speaking DJs and a repertoire of Top 40 tunes and MTV favorites, like the beautiful "Sweet, Sweet Baby" duet of Macy Gray and Erikah Badu.

Another popular station, 102.5, alternated Thai and English-speaking DJs, while 105.5 didn't have DJs at all, just non-stop music.

We were surprised to learn, though, that Michael Jackson was still quite popular among Thais, even if they had a difficult time pronouncing his name.

But then again, while Jackson's carrier single, "You Rock My World," tanked immediately upon its release in the American market, the accompanying album from which his single was culled debuted at number one in Billboard's Hot 200! So, at least in terms of sales, Michael has managed to keep his magic on the charts.

Other than finding out what made Bangkok's famous—and expensive!—or what the big deal was in riding small *bancas* to ogle at familiar or strange-looking items at the city's floating market, we also tried to check out the city's theater scene, but learned that it wasn't as big as Manila's.

Musical version

We were one week too late for the four-performance run of Bangkok Community Theater's staging of "Honk! The Ugly Duckling," the updated musical version of Hans Christian Andersen's classic children's tale, by George Stiles and Anthony Drewe, which premiered in London's West End in 1999, and beat out Elton John and Tim Rice's "The Lion King," as *the* Best New Musical in the 2000 Laurence Olivier Awards. We would have wanted to see be-goggled and be-flippered tap-dancing frogs and tadpoles onstage!

The six-year-old BCT, despite its relatively meager resources, has stacked up an impressive body of work, which included well-received stagings of "Godspell," "Cabaret," "Guys and Dolls," "Steel Magnolias," " Equus," "Plaza Suite, and "The Last of the Red Hot Lovers."

While we were impressed by the city's clean Silom Business District, Bangkok's equivalent of Makati, and the country's very accommodating people, we were pretty miffed with their *tuktuks*, the local term for their spacious tricycles, which could give many of our greedy, opportunistic taxi drivers a run for their money.

Tourists

We did see for ourselves what the (in)famous Patpong red-light district looked like—a series of go-go bars with men offering tourists quite a number of earthy choices for the night, while *bangketas* of shirts, jewelry and what-have-you were lined up in the middle of the road, as tourists swarmed the place like it was a way of life.

If you saw the opening scene of "Miss Saigon" where naked and near-naked women cavorted recklessly onstage while be-mustached men peddled their services, *that's* what you'll see in those bars. And you'll feel sad for those women.

'THIRTEEN GHOSTS'

America's top horror-thriller spooks its way to theaters

WILL Shannon Elizabeth ("American Pie") and Matthew Lillard ("Scream") be able to stand up to a baker's dozen of freaky phantoms? The answer is in the new fright fest, "Thirteen Ghosts"—the new thriller from mega producer Joel Silver and Columbia Pictures.

Fire

In the film, Tony Shalhoub ("Spy Kids") plays Arthur Kriticos who along with his children, Kathy (Elizabeth) and Bobby (Alec Roberts), are mourning the death of Arthur's wife and the kids' mother, Jean, who perished in a fire that also left the family homeless.

The desperate family thinks they've been saved when, out of nowhere, Arthur inherits his eccentric Uncle Cyrus' (F. Murray Abraham) modern mansion. A bizarre structure made entirely of glass and steel, the place at first seems like a playground to the relieved Kriticos family.

But Uncle Cyrus' abode holds a terrible secret: It's populated by more than a dozen ghoulish ghosts, each with its own personality—and all of which provide a conduit to hell straight through the mansion!

LILLARD. Cast as a psychic.

In fear, the Kriticos family turns to Rafkin (Lillard), a psychic who may be able to explain the paranormal house's activities. Added to the mix is Kalina ("Schindler's List's" Embeth Davidtz), a beautiful activist for ghosts' rights who's less interested in helping the family than protecting their phantom predators!

Huge arrow

The ghosts parade through the house, tormenting the Kriticos. Would you be able to sleep at night when a freaky-looking First Born Son (Mikhael Speidel) with a huge arrow stuck through his bleeding head is hovering around? And the question is . . . which will prevail, good or evil?

Based on the original 1960 feature of the same name, directed by William Castle, the new version features complex special effects that make if far scarier than the original.

"Cutting-edge special effects and advanced film technologies weren't available to Castle and his production team," says producer Gilbert Adler.

"We updated the story for today's audiences, but the visceral elements are similar to the original. The basic emotions of love, fear and hate are timeless."

Matthew Lillard says that he turned down numerous horror movies after appearing in "Scream," for fear of being typecast in the genre. But then, "'Thirteen Ghosts' came along, and it puts such an inventive spin on the classic haunted house story," he says, "and the plot has such exciting twists along the way, so I had to do it!"

How to lick the sugar habit

LOTUS POND

R. Valencia and S. Bismark

NANCY Appleton was a sugarholic. Uninformed about her own health, she began to suffer many types of ailments due to her sugar addiction. After years of physical suffering, she made an attempt to learn about the basics of healing and nutrition. He re are some of her experiences, as detailed in her book "Lick the Sugar Habit." Let's try to learn from her realizations:

Allergies

"Although I didn't realize it, I was a sugarholic and a chocoholic. Almost from birth, I craved the stuff. In my early childhood, I was plagued by bothersome allergies—the signals of an unbalanced body chemistry. My nose ran continually, and so did my eyes.

"I was constantly sticking fingers in my ears to try to stop the itching, rubbing my fingers over my throat, or even scratching the back of my throat with my tongue for the same reason. Like most people, I didn't understand these body signals and continued my dangerous dietary habits.

"...All I knew when I was a teenager was that I wasn't fat—just young, strong, and unhealthy. Every tooth in my mouth was eventually filled with gold or silver. My first bout with pneumonia came at age 13, and it put me in the hospital for two weeks. During my second year in college, I had a large tumor removed from my chest, which, after a great deal of expensive investigation, turned out to be a calcium deposit.

"No one told me that my body was unable to digest milk and calcium properly; no one suggested that the sugar in my diet and other lifestyle factors might be upsetting my body chemistry and causing my increasing health problems. I continued to ignore the signals my body was giving and, in my ignorance, went right on with my unhealthy lifestyle.

Tour

"I spent my junior year of college studying in Switzerland, land of chocolates. While in Geneva, I phoned a nearby chocolate factory, explained that I was a food and nutrition major, and asked for a tour. What I really wanted, of course, were the chocolate samples at the end of the line. That little trip fed my habit for about a week.

"Because I was traveling and not playing my usual four hours of tennis every day, I wasn't burning off the excess calories. I came back from Europe 30 pounds overweight, my sugar and chocolate cravings stronger than ever.

"My adult life was plagued with boils, canker sores, varicose veins, headaches, constipation, fatigue, colds, flu, and four more bouts with pneumonia—the result of a lifestyle that promoted an upset body chemistry. Each time I became sick with pneumonia, recovery took longer; my immune system was being weakened continually by my dietary habits and my lifestyle.

"After my last bout with pneumonia, my cough lasted for six months. Every specialist I consulted diagnosed my problem as chronic bronchitis. 'Take antibiotics 10 days out of the month for the rest of your life,' I was told over and over. Not one doctor ever asked, 'What do you put in your mouth? What do you eat?'

Nutrition

"I was 40 years old before I realized how little I knew about nutrition, sugar, allergies, or health. Although I still believed that doctors would take care of me, somehow I just couldn't swallow their diagnoses any easier than I could swallow antibiotics 10 days a month for the rest of my life...

"That was 18 years ago, and then came the beginning of a new life. I began seeing many different types of clinicians, homeopathic doctors, naturopaths, etc. These doctors use a variety of methods for healing the body other than antibiotics and surgery. They changed my diet, gave me supplements, and offered homeopathic medicines that might heal my body.

"It took me a long time to realize there is no magic pill, and that even a lot of pills together do not make a magic potion. As long as I was feeding my body abusive foods and continually upsetting my body chemistry, all the pills in the world would not help. It's like continuously tapping one's head with a small hammer and wondering why aspirin isn't getting rid of the headache!

Healing

"Awareness and change take time, and so does healing. There is no such thing as instant health, and the damage I had done to my body over the course of 40 years would not be undone overnight. The more I became in touch with my body, however, the easier it was to discover what it did and didn't need. My body was so out of homeostasis (balance) that it was giving me confusing signals; often the foods that satisfy a craving also deepen the addiction.

"Getting in touch with my allergies, cravings, addictions, headaches, sneezes, and wheezes was a slow, painful process, but it was also enlightening. Although I often had to backtrack, I eventually learned about my body chemistry and what it took to feel well."

Next week: what Appleton discovered about sugar and the other sweets that she was addicted to.

Tripping on love and friendship

By Leia Torre

IN the Filipino language, some words have evolved to such an extent that they have taken on new meanings. For example, the word "trip" originally means "a journey," "to stumble," or "to commit a blunder." In the recent movie with the same title, one way the word was used was to denote the journey or jaunt of a group of friends, or "*barkada.*"

Other meanings

The word has acquired other meanings as well: "trip *kita*" which means that the speaker likes the person he or she is saying the phrase to; and "bad trip" means that the speaker is not pleased with somebody, or something that has happened. In the movie, these variations of the word are put to good use, sometimes to the extent of overdoing it.

The movie is primarily about a group of friends who take a trip to the province. During the vacation, all of them confront issues that they have been avoiding, and try to resolve them, each in his own way.

Each member of the *barkada* deals with a different problem. One character has hang-ups concerning her sexuality, another one has an overprotective mother, and still another is pregnant.

Illegitimacy

Others include lack of funds coupled with illegitimacy, a philandering father, and a potentially dangerous boyfriend.

All these conflicts come to a head as the vacation nears its end, and some resolve themselves. Repercussions—both negative and positive—from the past actions of some of the characters make themselves felt. Basic truths are revealed. Apologies are made.

The movie's soundtrack album features 12 songs, each dealing with a separate aspect of the film.

Generally, the songs are played during the scenes that would suit them best. The first track on the album, "Trip Mo Ba?," encompasses the theme of the movie most successfully, in terms of its lyrics and the message it delivers. The song deals with the things one can expect from being part of a *barkada*.

More upbeat

"Trip Mo, Trip Ko," is more upbeat, descriptive version of "Trip Mo Ba?." While "Trip Mo Ba?" would appeal more to female listeners, "Trip Mo, Trip Ko" would garner the interest of the male members of the audience, both in terms of its lyrics and its accompanying rap beat.

"Ayoko Na" articulates a general dissatisfaction with life brought on by the lack of money. The lyrics outline in detail the plight of the penniless, and compare it with the benefits that the moneyed enjoy. In short, it's another version of the usual lament of the poor and unfortunate.

"Barkada" sings about the promises that friends make to each other. It prescribes fun as the ultimate cure for whatever may be ailing you.

Friends helping each other out is another option mentioned in the song. The characters in the movie subscribe to the tenets of this song, to a certain extent.

The other cuts are love songs—"Pangarap," "Girl," "Talunan na Puso," "Kung Wala Ka," "Napapa-Uuhh," Buhat Ng," and "Tuwing Umuulan."

ORIGINAL MOTION PICTURE SOUNDTRACK
TRIP

THE MOVIE'S soundtrack album features 12 songs, each dealing with a separate aspect of the film.

Yearning

"Pangarap," tells of the yearning of a person to have his love reciprocated. "Girl" is a remake of an already popular song, with some of the original's lines translated, plus other additions. It's about a girl who is too dense to realize the feelings the singer has for her.

"Talunan na Puso" compares love to a tennis game, with the adored one's heart as the hardcourt, and the adorer's chances as the score—which is zero! An ironic point: a score of zero in tennis is called "love."

"Kung Wala Ka" is one of those songs that link survival with the presence of love. Take away love, and there goes life as well! The message is sweet, but misleading. If everyone who ever suffered

TRIPPING/p.F6

Indie filmmakers grace 3rd annual Cinemanila fest

CRITICALLY-ACCLAIMED filmmakers, critics, actors and film producers from different parts of the world are coming to Manila to grace the 3rd Annual Cinemanila International Film Festival, which opened lastDec. 6 at Onstage Theater at Greenbelt, Makati.

Guests

Included in the list of the film industry's renowned guests are Thai filmmaker Nonzee Nimibutr, Asian-American award-winning director Abraham Lim, Filipino-American director David Maquiling and actress Danielle Cormack from New Zealand.

Nonzee Nimibutr is one of Thailand's most famous and successful directors. Three of the films that he directed are included in the festival—"Jan Dara," "Dang Bireley and the Young Gangsters" and "Nang Nak." Aside from these films, "Tears of the Black Tiger" and "Bangkok Dangerous," which Nimibutr produced last year, will also be presented at Cinemanila.

"Dang Bireley and the Young Gangsters" broke the record for box-office take by a Thai film. The film also won the Grand Prize at the 19th Festival International du Film Independent in Brussels, Belgium.

His follow up film "Nang Nak" broke the record set by "Dang Bireley and the Young Gangsters." It again flourished on the film festival circuit, earning the film and its director awards like "The Most Promising Director in Asia" and "Best Asian Film."

Special focus

Cinemanila 2001's special focus is

INDIE/p.F5

Great holiday specials on HBO

DECK the halls with boughs of holly… Christmas is here again! This December, HBO brings to you a collection of heart-warming Christmas movies, suitable for everyone in the family from the very young to the young-at-heart in HBO Family Christmas.

Excited

Sure to entertain the kiddies is the cartoon, "Santa Mouse and The Ratdeer." Rosie Mouse is quite excited for the upcoming Christmas holiday but she seems to be the only one. Her family and friends are all too busy to show the Christmas spirit.

While Rosie eagerly anticipates Christmas morning, Santa Mouse has grave doubts about the holiday. His sleigh is missing and his ratdeer are anything but excited about their annual trip around the world.

When Santa Mouse loses the map to guide his sleigh, his exasperated ratdeer quit, refusing to carry Santa's sleigh any further. Cold and tired, the ratdeer stumble about the house of Rosie Mouse who reminds them of what Christmas is all about. Can Rosie convince the ratdeer to finish their job or will Christmas be gone forever?

In the modern classic Christmas fantasy "Must be Santa" a new Santa is needed at the North Pole. A story about family, love, wishes and wonder, "Must be Santa" is just in time for the holidays. It's three days before Christmas, and there is still no Santa. The last Santa is old and tired, and has retired, and with time running out, the North Pole CEO is too flustered to make the decision.

Misunderstood

In a fated mix-up, he accidentally chooses a loser, who turns out in the end to be simply misunderstood, and the new Santa not only fills the old boots, but discovers a new love for his daughter in the process.

Providing laughter is "Special Delivery" starring New Radio's Andy Dick as a bumbling but well-meaning adoption agency courier in this extremely funny movie. Dick plays Lloyd Stedman, an incompetent employee at a Southern California adoption agency who is asked to deliver a baby to his new family in time for Christmas.

But one minute into Dick's performance, we see that getting the baby anywhere is going to be a miracle. Lloyd must pick up the baby and fly with him to the East Coast to his adoptive family.

Everything goes wrong, owing to Lloyd's fear of flying and nervousness in taking on such a bog responsibility. While a laugh-a-minute, Special Delivery tugs at the heart-strings of any parent as well as those who love children.

Apart from this, HBO also features other well-loved Christmas stories such as "All I Want For Christmas," "Timothy Tweedle: The First Christmas Elf" and "Christmas in Gaudinia" that are sure to entertain the family during this festive season!

Telecast schedule

Entertain the kiddies while the daddies and mummies wrap presents! Telecast schedule:

"Special Delivery" Dec. 8, 7:30 p.m.; Dec. 14, 5:45 p.m.; Dec. 25, 2:30 p.m.; Dec. 30, 4:45 p.m.

"Must Be Santa" Dec. 15, 6 p.m.; Dec. 25, 4:30 p.m.

"Timothy Tweedle: the First Christmas Elf" Dec. 9, 11 a.m.; Dec. 15, 5 p.m.; Dec. 25, 1:30 p.m.

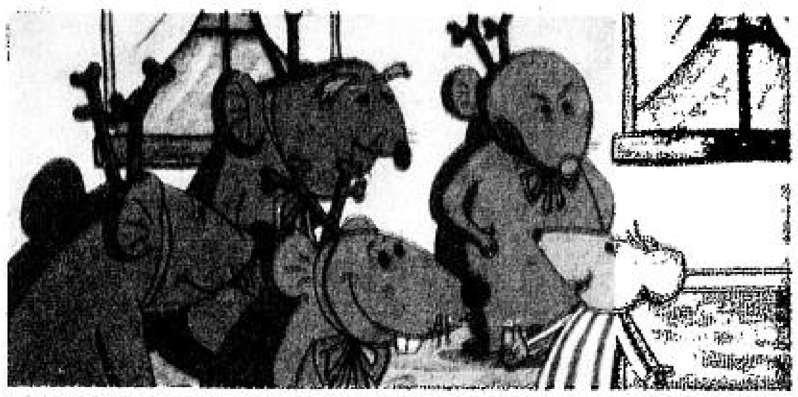
"All I Want For Christmas" Dec. 20, 3 p.m.; Dec. 25, 9:15 a.m.; Dec. 29, 4 p.m.

"Santa Mouse and The Ratdeer" Dec. 13, 5:15 p.m.; Dec. 25, 4 p.m.; Dec. 31, 10 a.m.

"Christmas In Gaudinia" Dec. 10, 10 a.m.; dec. 16, 4:30 p.m.; Dec. 25, 11 a.m.

"SPECIAL Delivery"

"MUST Be Santa"



"SANTA Mouse and the Ratdeer"

Indie . . .

(From page F4)

on Asian-American filmmakers. Spearheading this group is Abraham Lim, whose "Road and Bridges," which won the grand Jury Prize for best film at the 2001 Toronto Reelworld International Film Festival, will be screened at Cinemanila. The film is produced by Robert Altman.

"Road and Bridges" is based on Lim's own experiences. His other films include "Cookie's Fortune" (1999), "Freshkill" (1996) and "Fly" (1998), which won the 1998 NYU Award for best direction and editing.

A group of Filipino-American filmmakers will also grace the festival. They include David Maquiling, director of "Too Much Sleep." Maquiling graduated magna cum laude from the Tisch School of the Arts at New York University. "Too Much Sleep" is the first film by a Filipino-American that was released nationwide in the US.

Other Fil-Am directors include Ad Castillo, Abe Pagtama and Angel Shaw of the 63 Collective, whose works involve short and feature films; and Francisco Aliwas, director of "Disoriented," a feature film that tackles the lives of Filipino-American living in the United States.

Milkman

New Zealand actress Danielle Cormack will also be joining this year's festival as she is featured in the film "The Price of Milk." Cormack plays a maiden living on a dairy farm whose engagement with a milkman is headed for trouble.

She made her transition to the big screen after a career in TV made her a household name. Cormack also made several appearances in the hit TV Series "Xena: The Warrior Princess."

The 3rd Annual Cinemanila will run from Dec. 7-16 at the Greenbelt and Glorietta Theaters in Makati.

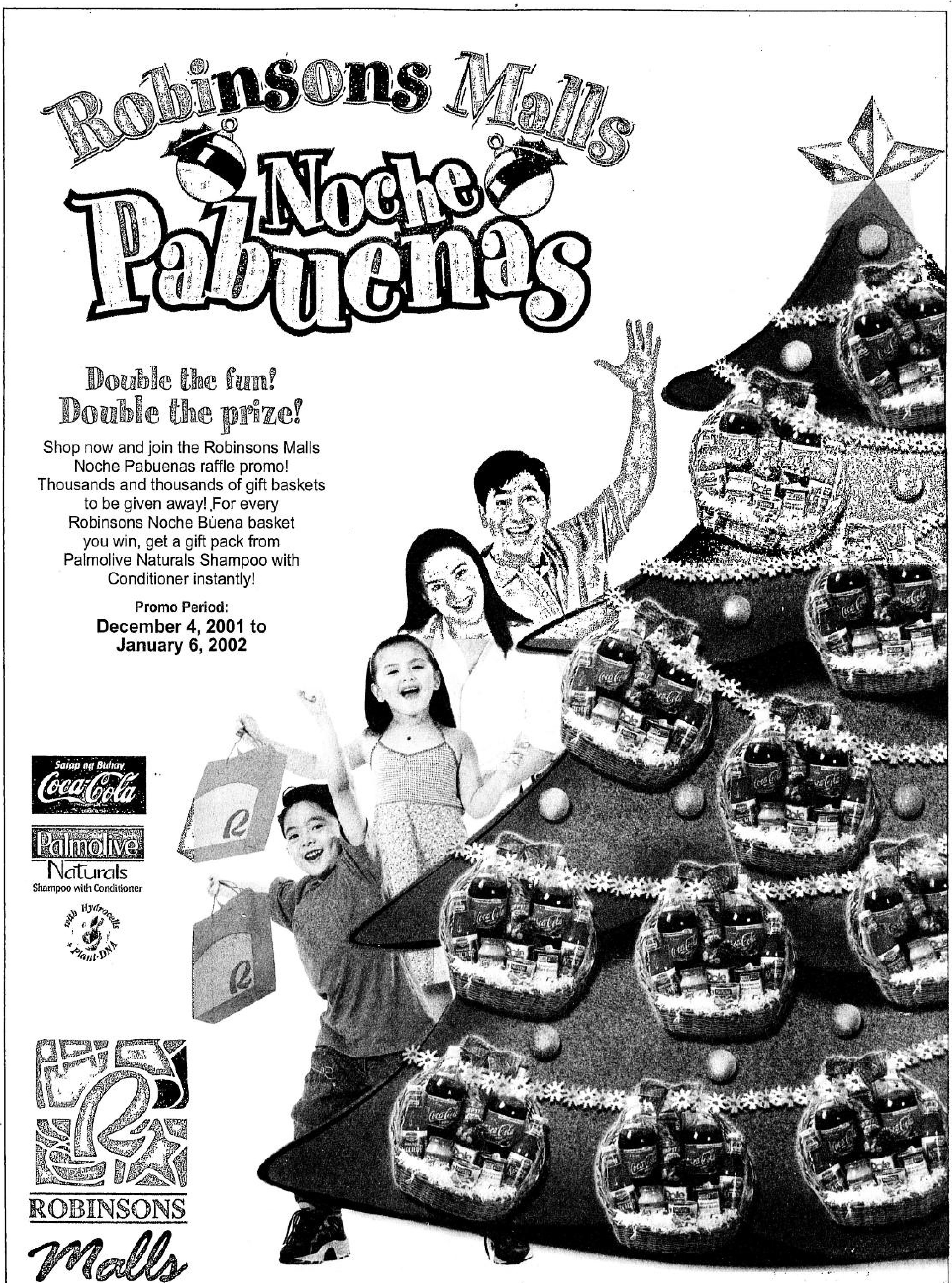
The festival is divided into several sections: World Cinema, Asian Cinema, Philippine Cinema and Young Cinema (the Digital Program).

Seminars

Aside from the screenings, Cinemanila will also hold seminars and symposia covering a wide-range of subjects on filmmaking.

Cinemanila 2001 is also sponsored by Ayala Cinemas as the official theater venue, Independent Cinema Association of the Philippines, Hotel Intercontinental-Manila as the official hotel, DHL—the official courier, Yehey—the official web host, the Philippine Daily Inquirer as the official broadsheet and MovPix International.

For more information, call 881-6782, visit the festival website at http:www.cinemanila.com.ph, or email at miff @cinemanila.com.ph.



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From 'Weakest Link' to 'Missing Link'?

LAST Tuesday, loyal viewers of Viva TV's "The Weakest Link" were thrown for a loop when, instead of the quiz show itself, they got a vague announcement that intimated that the program was taking a temporary leave from the tube.

The announcement ended with the brave hope (expectation?) that 'Weakest Link," now "Missing Link," would soon stage a triumphant comeback to TV screens as "The Strongest Link."

No real change of title, of course, just a symbolic way of saying that the popular show will soon settle some problems and find itself back on the tube.

So, quizmaster Edu Manzano's signature curt "Goodbye!" won't be a permanent adieu, the show's many fans hope.

What are the program's problems? We did some asking around and we were informed that the bone of contention involves another channel's declaration that it had secured the rights to produce the show before Viva TV did, thus the temporary injunction against the program's continuance.

The law will have to take its course, but the show's fans hope that, when the dust settles, "The Weakest Link," under the aegis of its rightful producer, no matter which group it may be, will be telecast once more on local TV screens, still with Edu as its snitty and entertainingly impossible-to-please host.

Hits films on Viva Cinema

Every Saturday this month at 8 p.m., Viva Cinema on Destiny Cable 21 screens a hit movie:

On Dec. 8, Maricel Soriano stars in "Abandonada." On Dec. 15, Anne Curtis topbills "Ika-13 Kapitulo." On Dec. 22, Janno Gibbs plays a descendant of the legendary hero in "Episode 2: Pedro Penduko." Finally, on Dec. 29, the film on view is "Kailangan Ko'y Ikaw" with Robin Padilla and Regine Velasquez.

Pre-Christmas concert

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

The Manila Chamber Orchestra Foundation, Equitable PCI Bank and dzFE 98.7 present the pre-Christmas concert, "The Children's Choirs: The Ateneo Boys Choir and the UP Cherubim and Seraphim," at 4 p.m. on Dec. 15 at the Francisco Santiago Hall, Tower I, Makati ave., Makati City.

Aside from well-loved Christmas carols, the concert features "A Ceremony of Carols," a set of 11 old English carols by Benjamin Britten. Accompanied by a harp, this rarely-performed work is regarded as a masterpiece of 20th century children's choral writing. Call 818-1403.

Character of the Month

The Cartoon Network has chosen Droopy, the "famous" detective, as its Character of the Month.

Among his memorable gumshoe characters are Sherlock Hound, Droop Tracely and Droop McSpade, the hard-boiled detective of film noir "with a private eye for the ladies and a public nose for sniffing out sneaks."

Tune in to Cartoon Network every Sunday from 9 to 10 a.m. and join detective Droopy as he pits his wits against the most comical crooks of all time.

Cinemanila guests

Who are the foreign film people attending the ongoing Cinemanila filmfest? They include Nonzee Nimibutr from Thailand, New Zealand actress Danielle Cormack, and French film critics Jacques Poitrat and Max Tessier.

Nimibutr has no less than five movies in the festival—his debut film, "Dang Bireley and the Young Gangsters"; his second, "Nang Nak"; his latest, "Jan Dara"; and two movies that he produced, "Tears of the Black Tiger" and "Bangkok Dangerous."

Danielle Cormack is in the film, "The Prince of Milk." Poitrat and Tessier are affiliated with the Cannes filmfest.

Sarah at Padi's Mindave

Every Friday this month, Sarah Balabagan sings at Padi's Mindave restaurant-bar on Mindanao ave., QC. Her repertoire is made up of ballads and pop songs. Call 453-0080.

Sarah's inspiring life story was made into a film starring Vina Morales in 1997. In 1999, Sarah cut her first album for Sony Music.

MANZANO. Temporary absence?

BALABAGAN. Inspiring life story.

DROOPY. Going up against the most comical crooks of all time.

THE UP Cherubim and Seraphim (left) and the Ateneo Boys Choir will perform on Dec. 15 at the Francisco Santiago Hall.

Fast facts on Shihab Rattansi

SHIHAB Rattansi is an anchor of World News. Q&A:

First Job: I had a slew of jobs between school and university, from barman to radio deejay.

Sun Sign: Virgo

Top Film: "La Dolce Vita"

Favorite Food: Anything cooked by my mother

Close friends

Ideal holiday: Breathtaking land/seascapes, with close friends

Best Books: Currently reading "Just Above My Head" by James Baldwin

Music preference: Too wide to summarize

How did CNN come through and what made you leave Television Corporation Singapore (TCS)?

As the world's television news leader, how could I not take up the offer of joining CNN?

You seemed to have had a very exciting career at TCS, traveling and covering rather important issues. Which one is most memorable and why?

The Asian economic crisis transformed the whole of Southeast Asia, and I traveled across the region covering the turmoil.

Excellent reminder

But if I had to pick one event, it would be the fall of Indonesian President Suharto—an excellent reminder of how quickly circumstances could change.

What is the one big difference you find in the working environment at CNN? How does this affect your career and personal life?

RATTANSI. Product of the Indian Diaspora.

I appear on the mornings in Europe and Africa and in the evenings across Asia. . . of course that means I go to work in Atlanta shortly after midnight! But the range of breaking stories during this shift makes up for a lack of exposure to daylight.

You trace your roots to India. How much of an influence does India have on you?

I'm a result of the Indian Diaspora. My parents moved to the UK in the '50s, and I was born and brought up in Britain—living there until my mid-20s. My familial connection to Asia informs my journalism. And of course growing up as an Indian in the UK, I felt the importance of my community and heritage.

But I feel as much of a cultural link to Europe as I do to Asia. As far as I'm concerned, the wider my range of influences and connections, the better.

Tripping . . .

((From page F4)

from unreciprocated love were to die, we would have no need for other methods of population control!

The best way to describe "Napapa-Uuhh" is "suggestive." Basically, it's a list of all the things fools in love may do with their loved one. "Buhat Ng" describes how love begins—the initial meeting, the conversations, the romance. It gives credit to love's ability to alter lives.

Song of remembrance

Lastly, "Tuwing Umuulan" is what one can call a song of remembrance. The song is mainly concerned with the use of memories as a defense against the loneliness life can bring. It is first and foremost a song of sadness, but can also be taken as an anthem of hope.

All in all, the songs in the soundtrack jibe with the theme of the movie. There is, however, an abundance of songs dealing with the problems brought on by love, and a scarcity of songs dealing with other themes. The movie itself focused on family relationships and financial insecurities, in addition to love. It would have been good to have some songs dealing with family in the album, as well.

The songs that comprise the album were rendered by different artists, but somehow sound alike when put together. The artists include The Freshmen, Barbie's Cradle, Chocolate Beef, Mike Luis, Gloc 9, Session Road, Quarter To Five, Gladys and The Boxers, Oblaxz, Uflow, Mari, and Jimmy Bondoc.

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Ben Stiller goes from supermodel to hero in 'Zoolander'

WHAT'S the world's most famous male supermodel to do when he's dressed to kill and ready for action'? How about stop an outrageous plot and become a model American hero!

Title

Derek Zoolander has faced off thousands of persistent paparazzi and defended his title of Male Model of the Year for three years running without even getting his hair mussed.

But now the world's most famous supermodel is about to prove he's not just an ordinary really, really good looking stud in snakeskin, but a hunk to be reckoned with when he faces off the evil fashion underworld and gives his millions of adoring fans a real reason to cheer.

Following the success of blockbuster comedies "Meet the Parents" and "There's Something About Mary," Ben Stiller now turns his attention to the fashion industry with "Zoolander," an original comedy based on a 1996 VH1/Vogue Fashion Awards character he co-created with "MTV Movie Awards" writer/producer Drake Sather.

Paramount Pictures and Village Roadshow Pictures present in association with VHI and NPV Entertainment, a Scott Rudin and Red Hour Production, A Ben Stiller Film, "Zoolander." Starring and directed by Ben Stiller, the film also stars Owen Wilson, Will Ferrell, Christine Taylor, Milla Jovovich, Jerry Stiller and Jon Voight.

Hot newcomer

As the film unfolds, Derek Zoolander's world is knocked off its axis when, anticipating his victory of a fourth straight Male Model of the Year Award, it is instead handed to the dashing hot newcomer, Hansel (Owen Wilson).

Facing the devastating reality that he is no longer the world's No. 1supermodel, Derek searches for a purpose in life and returns to his southern New Jersey roots to work in the coal mines with his father and brothers. Unfortunately, Derek's blue collar father (Jon Voight) is none too pleased to see him given the shame he feels concerning his son's unmanly profession.

Rebuffed by his family, Derek returns to Manhattan where the now ubiquitous Hansel is more than he can take. The two stars engage in a modeling "walk-off" to determine once and for all the best runway talent, from which a mutual respect ultimately develops.

"Deep down, Hansel really admires Zoolander and looks up to him," says Wilson of his brash character. "When we become friends, I let my guard down and say how much I admired his work in the 'International Male' catalogue."

Conflicts

For Wilson, filming their characters' conflicts was not as easy as it appears on screen.

"The walk-off scene was uncomfortable for me because I literally have never danced in public, or in private," the actor confesses. "We had to break dance in front of 75 extras who were cheering and booing."

For Derek, things start looking up when he gets his first comeback job from ultra-eccentric designer, Mugatu (Will Ferrell). Unbeknownst to him, however, the invitation is only made to lure him into Mugatu's fiendish plot.

"When Derek has this fall from the top, he's vulnerable," says Ferrell. "Getting him under my control to star in my new line of clothes is just a cover-up."

Farrell, the versatile "Saturday Night Live" comedian, has always pushed the envelope with a repertoire of eccentric characters, and the outlandish, platinum blonde Mugatu is no exception.

Ferrell elaborates: 'Mugatu likes to wear corsets, which were real ones I had to squeeze into. It was insane. Once we stopped shooting, I was addicted to wearing corsets. The trig bold decision though, was to dye my hair platinum blonde, no less than three times, as you'll see.

Crazy hairstyle

"A lot of people thought it was a wig. We created this crazy hairstyle and I couldn't cut it. So, half the season of 'Saturday Night Live' I had to wear wigs to cover this big head of platinum hair. Total insanity."

Mugatu is assisted by his beautiful cohort Katinka, played by Milla Jovovich in a rare comic turn. Aside from the loyalty to her high fashion boss and their evil mission, Katinka suffers severe repugnance for any off-the-rack department store apparel.

"She's a unique type of intolerant villain,' says Jovovich with a laugh, explaining her character. "Snobbery doesn't begin to describe her attitude towards discount retail fashion."

Trying to unravel the tangled plot, Zoolander is assisted by the diligent Time Magazine reporter Matilda (Christine Taylor). After first writing a scathing article on Derek, the tough journalist eventually softens up to the dim, but naive icon.

Sense of reality

"I like to call Matilda the straight man in this movie," says Taylor. "It's filled with many over-the-top, funny characters, and Matilda brings a sense of reality to that world. You need to have somebody who is a bit of an anchor: a voice of reason for the audience."

OWEN Wilson as Hansel and Ben Stiller as Derek.

SCOTT Rudin and Stiller on the set of "Zoolander."

Taylor has particular experience mixing comedy and fashion, having donned those '70s era mini-skirts in the two "Brady Bunch" features as the famously envied, "Marcia, Marcia, Marcia!"

In addition to his wife, Christine Taylor, who plays Matilda the Time Magazine journalist, Stiller ended up working with his immediate family, which is a quite talented clan, indeed. His mother, Anne Meara, plays a protester at the VH1/Vogue Fashion Awards. His sister, Amy Stiller, plays one of Hansel's fashion posse, and his father Jerry, plays Derek's longtime agent, Maury Ballstein.

"My dad has such a specific persona that so many people relate to, and he brought that to the character. He's very prepared, and he comes in with so many ideas," says Ben.

Watching the senior Stiller, it is hard to imagine anyone else in the role. He explains his venture into new territory: "At the beginning, I was very wary of what it would be like. When we first got on the set, I felt more nervousness than usual because I realized Ben was not only the actor I was working with; he was also the director.

"Then, when we started working, he said, 'Dad, would you do it a little faster?" And I realized he wasn't treating me any differently than anyone else—he was just using the word 'Dad.'"

In the role of agent Ballstein, a mentor to his narcissistic, naive client, Jerry realized he could bring his own life's perspective to the film.

Protective

"It allowed me to become paternalistic and protective toward Ben's character—to he a shepherd, so to speak, to this lost sheep, this aberrant child in the world of high fashion. I was able to transform my own feelings toward Ben into this character. Maury is no different from the old-time agents I used to know when first starting out.

"They watched over their clients, making sure they weren't taken advantage of and exploited. These were guys who encouraged you to sit in their office with them, and just drink a soda or have a sandwich. They created benevolent relationships, which is how Maury treats his clients."

During pre-production, Ben Stiller and Owen Wilson spent two days being photographed by Frank Ockenfels to create full model's "portfolios" for Derek Zoolander and Hansel.

The competing supermodels posed in mock ad campaigns for Gucci, Perry Ellis, Tommy Hilfiger and Evian, as well as bogus magazine covers for GQ, Details, Rolling Stone, Surfer, American Way, ESPN and the International Male catalog.

Off-kilter reality

The photos appear in the film as various story elements, giving an off-kilter reality to a world in which the characters of Stiller and Wilson vie for the year's top modeling prize.

As Stiller explains, "We have fun with the fashion world in the movie, but in such a silly, cartoonish way, I don't think anybody could take it personally. For example, Details magazine was relevant because Derek considers it a much more news-oriented publication than Time. My hope was to make 'Zoolander' something you could relate to, even if you know nothing about the fashion world."

"Zoolander" is peppered with cameos such as Garry Shandling, Gwen Stefani, David Bowie and Donald Trump. Many leading models and fashionistas who were also happy to spoof themselves, included Claudia Schiffer, Veronica Webb, Tommy Hilfiger, Tom Ford and Tyson Beckford.

Filmed primarily in New York City, with additional scenes shot in Los Angeles, "Zoolander" takes place in a highly stylized Manhattan consisting of awards shows, cutting-edge nightclubs and multi-million dollar Soho lofts. This glamorous, slightly skewed world, in which fashion meets fantasy, was created by production designer Robin Standefer and costume designer David C. Robinson.

Parallel

Standefer draws a parallel between the look she designed for the film and the layout of a fashion magazine. "Rather than have a unified design scheme," she explains, "we opted for something that would be jarring, rather than flowing from one space to another, much like the layout of Elle or Vogue.

"You turn a page and go from a great ad to editorial space and back again, constantly bombarded by rich imagery. That was an important conceptual way I looked at this: 'Let me create a fashion magazine on film!'"

Standefer continues, "I wanted the film to hold together visually, which it does. Ben had a lot to do with that because he really pushed me in a very creative way. He constantly wanted to get to high fashion, to keep it very clever and funny, to keep turning the channel.

"He'd say, 'Yes, but we've seen that before. Let's try something else.' He's a perfectionist: tough and strong in a way I really appreciate. When a director does that to you, your work goes right to another level."

The production designer chose some unusual locations for the shoot. For the film's climactic scenes surrounding the "Derelicte" fashion show, which takes place in a subway tunnel, she found a huge abandoned power plant in Long Island City, across the East River from midtown Manhattan.

Cathedral

"Even though it's grungy," she says, "it's also like a cathedral. It functioned beautifully, especially with the addition of columns and a very cool, greenish color that predominated. I love to transform industrial spaces like that, but to be really respectful of what they have to offer, to play with the ghosts of what might have been there."

For the sequence at the day spa run by Mugatu, the elusive designer titan who finally hires Zoolander, Standefer went in a different direction. "Ben wanted something different from the traditional all-white day spa look," she says.

"We imagined it was underwater, since Derek was going into a relaxation mode. I suggested metal, because there's something very antiseptic and clinical about metal. Some rooms have very pale white walls, while the massage room, hallway, practice room and relaxation room are clad in metal."

Standefer also got to design one of the most bizarre sets of her career: the "Soil Room" in Hansel's cavernous loft. It's the place Hansel retreats for meditation (and, perhaps, more carnal activities) with a floor made entirely of earth. Standefer planted grass around the room's perimeter. and strung thousands of glass beads from the ceiling, giving the feeling of an East Indian palace, adding to its intimacy.

And how does one get all that soil into a fifth floor loft? "We filled a mini-backhoe with dirt downstairs," explains Standefer, "brought it up in the freight elevator, and dumped it into the room."

Can Harry Potter's magic revive a dead language?

LONDON—Can Harry Potter wave his magic wand and revive a dead language?

Publishers of "Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone," who plan to translate the adventures of the schoolboy wizard into Latin and ancient Greek, think it might help, the Daily Telegraph newspaper reported on Monday.

Translations

Author J.K. Rowling and her publishers Bloomsbury hope the translations will help children overcome the dread of studying the two ancient languages, the newspaper said.

"We aren't under any illusions that the Latin and Greek versions will be bestsellers but we think that it will mean much more fun lessons for anyone studying Latin and Greek," said Emma Matthewson, Rowling's editor at Bloomsbury.

Peter Needham, who taught Latin and Greek at top boys' school Eton College, was translating the first of Rowling's books about the wizard with the telltale scar, The Telegraph said.

Rowling, whose books contain numerous classical references and spells in Latin, was said to particularly keen on the project, according to the newspaper.

Latin name

"For the time being I'm calling Harry Harrius Potter. Arrius is a Latin name . . . and it declines perfectly well so that, for example, we have Harrium Potterum. The literal translation of Potter would be Figulus but I very much hope Potter will survive," Needham said.

"This is going to be a wonderful thing for children. It has got very witty dialogue . . . But I think it's going to be a fun thing for intelligent people to have—the sort of thing you give your father for Christmas," he was quoted as saying.

It said Needham was likely to finish the book well before his deadline in August, with publication set for 2003.

A translator has not been found for the ancient Greek version, but a linguist has been appointed for a Welsh copy of the book.

"Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone" is not the first children's book to be translated into Latin. "Paddington Bear," "Alice in Wonderland" and "Winnie the Pooh" have all had the Latin treatment, the newspaper said. *Reuters*

Ted Turner regrets not buying Time Warner

ANAHEIM, CALIFORNIA—Reflecting on his career, media mogul Ted Turner said one of his biggest regrets was not buying Time Warner so that he could "have fired Jerry before he could fire me."

Swipes

Turner took several swipes at Gerald M. Levin, the chief executive for AOL Time Warner, at a cable industry gathering Wednesday.

He also said that, though he'll have free time because his company merged with AOL Time Warner, he doesn't have the energy to seek public office.

Turner, 63, who has a Montana ranch and other extensive land holdings, joked that the White House has only a few acres and is "too small for me."

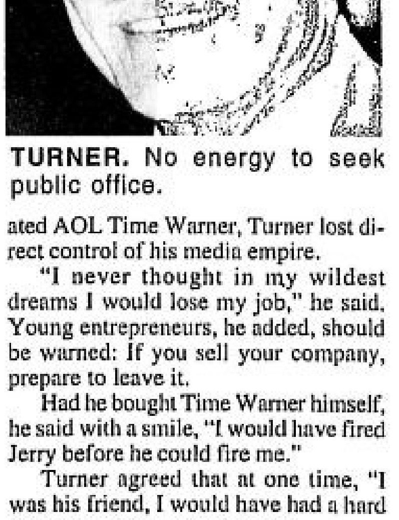
Interviewed for a project documenting the careers of cable TV industry figures, Turner noted his philanthropy and said he donated $250 million last year.

That gave him the opportunity to take a dig at a favorite target, media magnate Rupert Murdoch, in front of an audience that paid $150 per ticket.

"Wouldn't it be terrible to hang on to every nickel, like Rupert Murdoch and [Viacom chairman] Summer Redstone?" Turner asked.

Biggest mistake

Reviewing his career, Turner said his biggest mistake was selling a stake in Turner Broadcasting System to Time Warner. The move, prompted by about $500 million in debt that TBS acquired after buying MGM in the 1980s, loosened Turner's grip on the cable company that includes CNN.



TURNER. No energy to seek public office.

In the subsequent mergers that created AOL Time Warner, Turner lost direct control of his media empire.

"I never thought in my wildest dreams I would lose my job," he said. Young entrepreneurs, he added, should be warned: If you sell your company, prepare to leave it.

Had he bought Time Warner himself, he said with a smile, "I would have fired Jerry before he could fire me."

Turner agreed that at one time, "I was his friend, I would have had a hard time firing him. At that time."

Levin has r comment, spokeswoman said Th .rsday.

Turner's remarks were taped for the oral and video history program of The Cable Center, based in Denver, which develops educational and research programs for the cable and telecommunications industry. Industry members were in Anaheim for the 2001 Western Show, a trade show. *AP*

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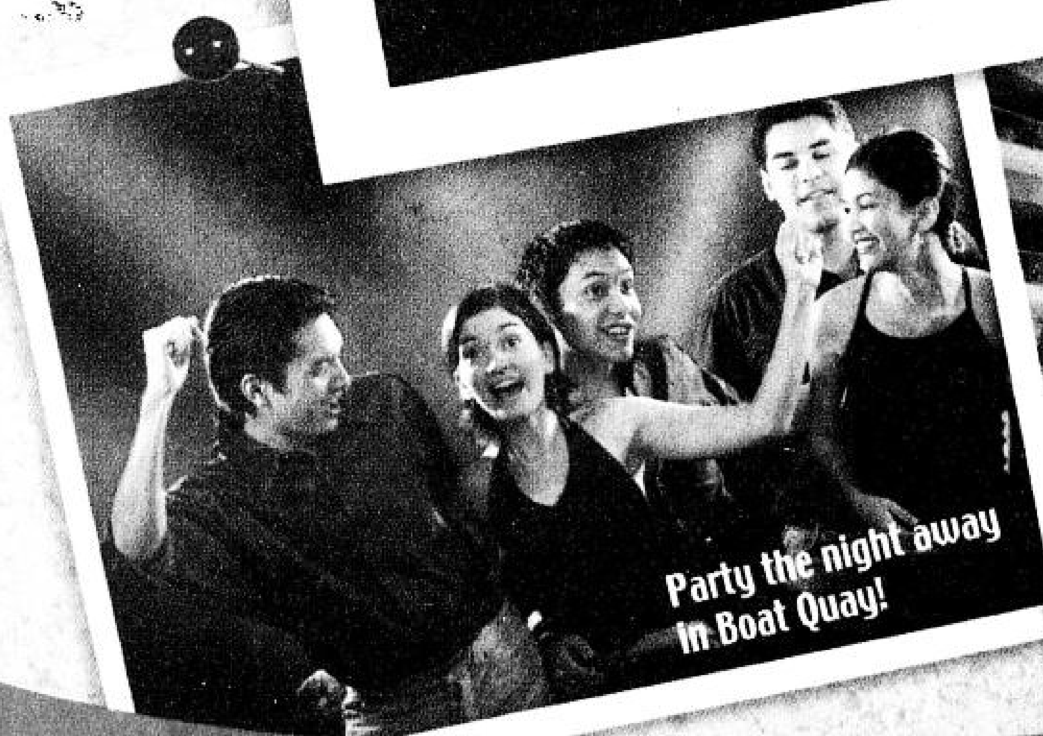

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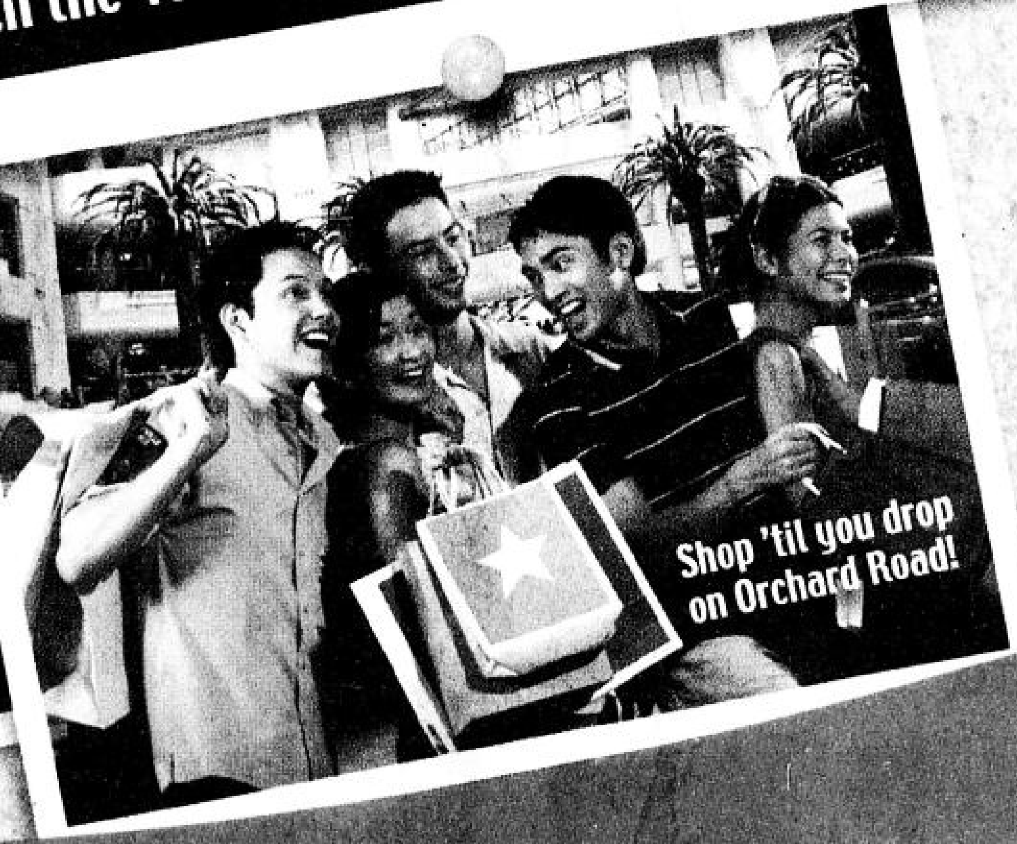

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1. Promo duration is from November 20, 2001- January 10, 2002. Promo begins on November 22, 2001 in the provinces.
2. There are two ways of forming a barkada and joining the promo:
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   * Watch out for the new SMART Gold Subscription Plans.
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5. A total of four (4) barkadas will win a trip to Singapore for five to watch the MTV Asia Awards plus pocket money of P25,000.00 for each barkada member in the raffle draw on January 15, 2002.
6. SMART will only shoulder the expenses of the trip for a maximum of 5 persons per winning group. The prize is convertible to cash (P200,000.00).
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8. Prizes may be claimed at Ace Saatchi and Saatchi, 10th floor, Feliza Bldg., 108 Herrera St., Legaspi Village Makati City.
9. Winners must present the winning raffle stub, notification letter, valid ID, and their SMART SIM cards. Winners of the trip to Singapore must also present birth certificates and passports.
10. All employees of SMART Communications, Inc., Pilipino Telephone Corporation and their respective ad agencies as well as relatives up to the second degree of affinity or consanguinity are disqualified from the promo.

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* Individual SIM swappers from November 20, 2001 - January 10, 2002 may also win P20,000.00 on the January 15, 2002 raffle draw.
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* Customer Care Officers, TSI agents and TSI counter representatives may also win P10,000.00 cash prize if they facilitated the SIM swap of the winning individual SIM swapper.

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SaturdaySPECIAL

Meet Kristell Le Goff, young supermodel in the making

LE GOFF. Demure mannet and enchanting eyes.

By Behn Cervantes

HER name is Kristell Le Goff. She is only 13 years young! Nevertheless, she is 5'8 1/2'" inches (very) tall and has all the makings of a commercial model. Her hair is dark brown, her eyes the same color, and her dress size 0.

Interested

That physique, described as slim, and the poise of one beyond her years should indeed merit serious consideration for a modeling career. Indeed, they do and what is great news is, the girl is interested. Very interested, in fact.

She was in a New York MCI TV advertisement in 1993 at the ripe age of 5. She also modeled for Girls Scout Project in Long Island in 1996, thus having early training in the field of modeling. She goes for hip-hop and modern dance, both of which forms of movement make her body supple for the needs of the craft of modeling.

Kristell, with the demure manner and enchanting eyes, is also affable, outgoing and, yes, punctual and respectful.

She is a member of the school chorus and band, playing both the piano and the clarinet. She is a member of the Drama Club, now appearing in the school's production of "Annie Jr." She is also a member of the Theatre Club. One of the club's activities is for Kristell and her mother to watch Broadway plays and critique them.

French is her second language, having spoken it since childhood to her dad and doting French grandmamma. That would serve her well in the fashion capitals of the world, right?

There appears to be a pattern here, don't you

KRISTELLE/p.G3

KRISTELL speaks French, acts in school plays, and plays both the piano and the clarinet. PHOTOS BY JUN DE LEON

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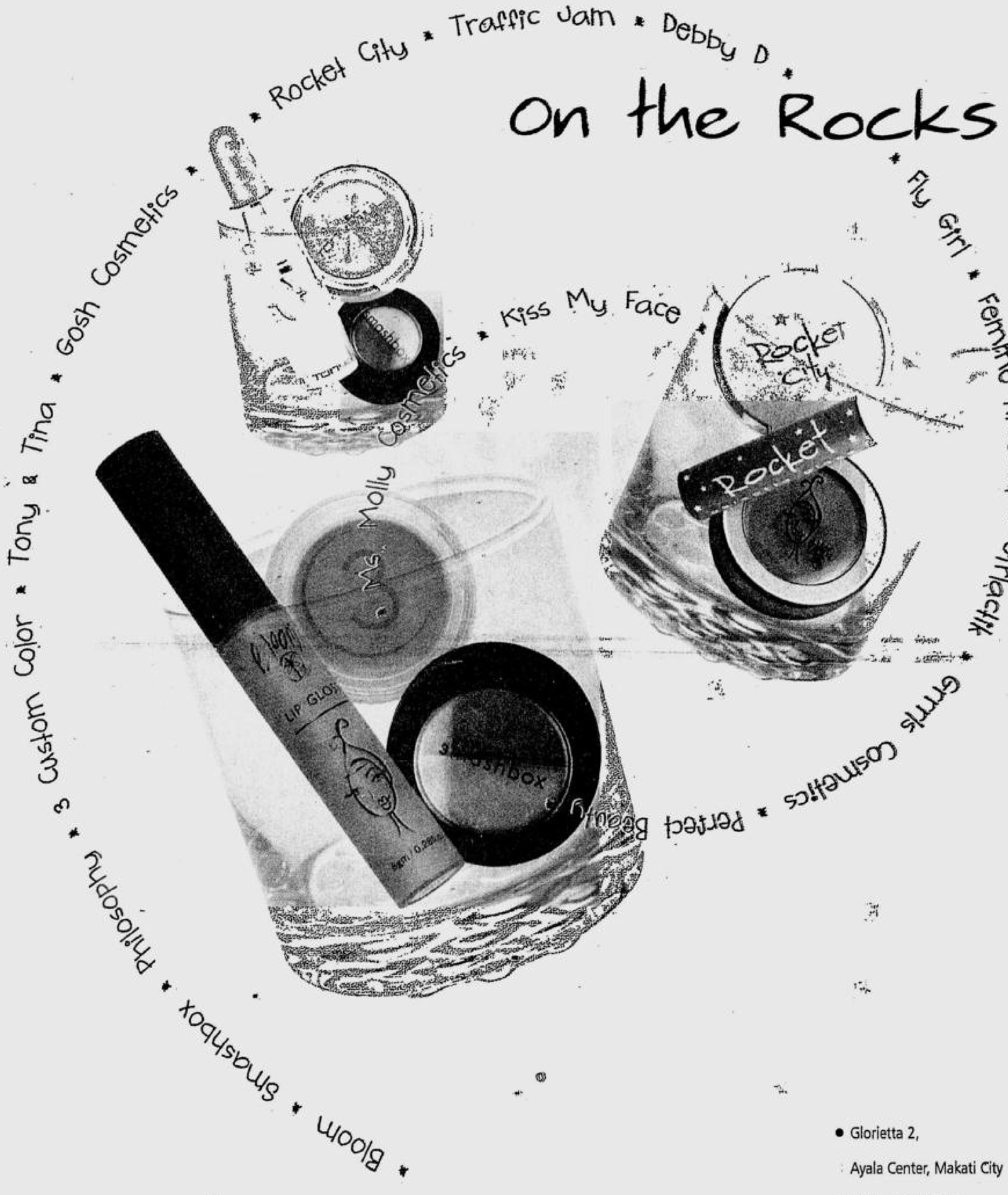
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US First Couple salutes Nicholson, Pavarotti and others at Kennedy Center honors

BY SCOTT LINDLAW

WASHINGTON—President George W. Bush hosted a Hollywood who's-who as actors Jack Nicholson and Julie Andrews, pianist Van Cliburn, composer-producer Quincy Jones and tenor Luciano Pavarotti were saluted for their contributions to the performing arts at the annual Kennedy Center Honors.

Custom

The president paid tribute Sunday to the honorees and, in keeping with his custom, teased them.

"The recipients for 2001 make quite a collection," Bush said at a White House reception. "This year's honorees can carry a tune. And then there's Jack."

Bush has not had as close a relationship with the entertainment industry as his predecessor, President Bill Clinton. But those attending a White House reception before the honors gala Sunday evening included Warren Beatty and his wife, Annette Bening, Candice Bergen, Bo Derek, Carol Burnett, Michael Douglas, Lorne Michaels, Lynn Redgrave-Clarke and Oprah Winfrey.

The president and Laura Bush held the reception for the honorees cited for career achievement, and other artists and officials before the 24th annual gala at the nearby entertainment hall.

In a tribute to Nicholson at the honors ceremony, Douglas said: "Jack, it all comes down to this: You are the screen actor of our generation."

True American hero

Bush's national security adviser, Condoleezza Rice, honored Van Cliburn, saying, "At a moment when our nation is again focused on just how much we value freedom, we turn our eyes toward a true American hero."

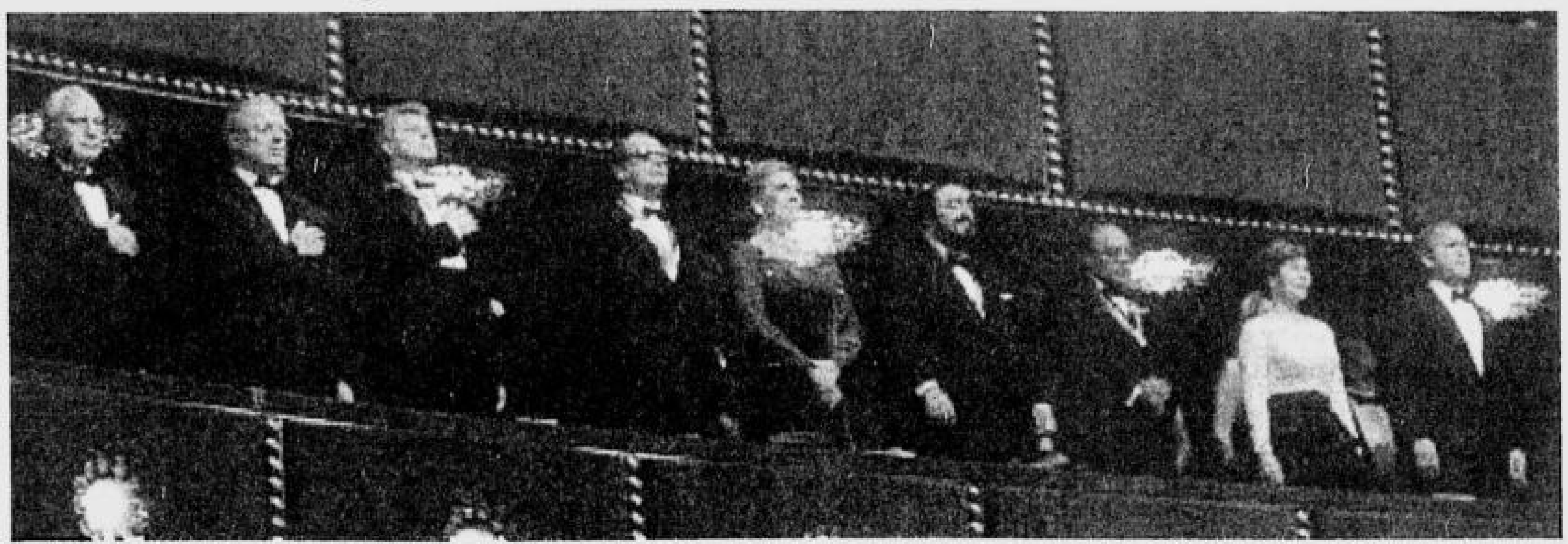
Other notables among the nearly 400 guests at the White House included director Nora Ephron; singer Robert Goulet; Queen Noor of Jordan; and the CEOs of Marriott, Boeing Co., and the Coca-Cola Co.

Contrary to past practice, the Bush administration barred reporters and photographers from the reception. Journalists heard his speech through nearby loudspeakers.

"You're each here so that America can recognize your great gifts and the ways that you have used them," Bush told the honorees.

Andrews, 66, starred in "The Sound of Music" on the screen and in "My Fair Lady" and "Camelot" on Broadway. She won an Academy Award for the title role in "Mary Poppins."

Bush told the story of President Ronald Reagan explaining to his chief of staff why he had not read a briefing book during an international conference. "'The Sound of Music' was on last night," Reagan told the aide. Bush added: "The face and voice of Julie Andrews has that effect on a lot of people."



PRESIDENT and Mrs. Bush (at right) with this year's honorees.

Three tenors

Pavarotti, 66, first gained fame in 1961 in "La Boheme." He has since performed thousands of times in operas and solo concerts, and as part of The Three Tenors with Placido Domingo and Jose Carreras.

Bush told the crowd that Pavarotti had started in the insurance business, and once had a boss who told him, "As a singer, you will undoubtedly die of starvation."

Jones, cited for his "spectacular influence on all facets of American popular music for more than 50 years," has been a composer, arranger, conductor, instrumentalist, record company executive, magazine founder and record, film and television producer. Among the recordings produced by Jones, 68, are "We Are the World" and Michael Jackson's "Thriller" album.

"For all your marvelous work, America thanks you, Q, and so does W," Bush said.

Nicholson, 64, won Academy Awards for his performances in "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest," "Terms of Endearment" and "As Good As It Gets."

Van Cliburn, 67, won the first Tchaikovsky International Piano Competition in Moscow in 1958. The first musician ever honored with a ticker-tape parade in New York City, he went on to found the Van Cliburn International Piano Competition. Bush noted that the pianist had visited the White House as a guest of President Dwight Eisenhower.

AP

Albert and William Martinez carry on with Christmas tradition of family togetherness

BY JOCELYN VALLE

BROTHERS Albert and William Martinez feel lucky to have fond memories of the Yuletide season while they were growing up. "Our whole family was always together to celebrate Christmas: midnight Mass, Noche Buena, the exchanging of gifts, the works!" Albert recalls enthusiastically. "*Kahit na* busy *ang* father *namin*."

Family men

Now that they are family men themselves, Albert and William make it a point that the Martinezes' tradition lives on. On the eve of Christmas, they gather either in Albert's or William's house, with new relatives in tow.

And always, the brothers are in charge of the menu (depending on who's hosting the festivity). "Albert and William are great cooks," reveals Albert's wife Liezl, prompting her sister-in-law, Yayo Aguila to quip, "*E, kasi* once a year *lang nila ginagawa 'yan. Kami*, everyday!"

The Martinez couples are acting together in an episode (which will be aired on Dec. 12) for Channel 7's "Larawan" as part of the Wednesday-night program's special Christmas series that features prominent show biz families, including past guests like the Yllana brothers and spouses Ariel Rivera and Gelli de Belen.

Adoption

Their light-hearted chat with a few entertainment writers belies the seriousness of the episode they're making titled "Belen." In the teleplay directed by Gina Alajar, Albert and Liezl play a well-to-do couple whose infant child is stolen by their maid while another couple (William and Yayo) give theirs up for adoption, only to regret their decision later on.

FROM left, Albert, Liezl, Yayo and William.

The protagonists' worlds collide when, during the course of each couple's relentless search for their lost child, they meet a young girl (portrayed by Din Din Llarena, a discovery and weekend mainstay of "Eat Bulaga") and both parties claim responsibility for her, insisting that she's their missing daughter.

"Heavy drama *talaga ito*," Albert remarks. Nodding, Liezl explains why their and William and Yayo's kids aren't part of the Christmas special. "*Hindi nila kakayanin ang ganyang* acting," she laughs.

"Pro *talaga ang kailangan at magaling naman ang nakuha nila*," says Albert, who'll be at the helm of the next episode for "Larawan," presenting this time the thespic talents of the Gibbs family—Ronaldo Valdez with son Janno, daughter-in-law Bing Loyzaga and grandchild Alyssa.

Directing

The actor proudly shares that he has gone into directing. So far, he's handled several episodes of the weekly drama serial, "Pira-pirasong Pangarap," and the horror-comedy show, "Kakabakaba."

"*Lahat ng* frustrations *ko sa* acting, *nalalabas ko sa* directing," he grins, adding the he looks forward to making his first feature film soon. "My dream cast for that will be Nora and Vilma. I've worked with both of them and it would be an honor to direct them in a movie."

Albert, William, Liezl and Yayo may be the center of attention in front of the camera but at their respective homes, the stars are none other than their cute kids.

Albert and Liezl have two daughters, Alyanna, 15, and Alissandra, 9, and a son, Alfonso, 9. William and Yayo, on the other hand, have three girls—Patrizha, 15, Dana, 11, and Dannielle, 7, and one boy, nine-month-old Adam.

But, Liezl and Yayo aver, they don't spoil their kids. They don't give them fancy Christmas gifts just because they can afford them and other youngsters have them.

Obsession

"They have to work hard if they want to get something," Liezl stresses, citing Alfonso's recent obsession with a certain brand and model of cell phone. "I told him to save for it. He did and during his last birthday, he asked those who were giving him gifts to give cash instead for his cell phone savings, or his 'foundation,' as he calls it."

Meanwhile, Yayo discloses that as early as each November, Williams asks their daughters to make a wish list of three items that they would like to have for Christmas, with the understanding that each girl will get only one gift from their parents.

Yayo and William share their kids' joy as they open their cherished presents. Yayo is doubly pleased that the girls don't get envious of each other. "*Malaki kasi ang* age gap *nila kaya hindi na sila pare-pareho ng hilig*," she explains. "Besides, they always like what they receive *kasi nga tinanong namin kung ano talaga ang gusto nila*."

Ambrose's 'Band of Brothers' focuses on individual soldiers

BY NOELANI TORRE

(Conclusion)

RESEARCHING "Band of Brothers," Stephen E. Ambrose asked every member of Easy that he interviewed for the book "if the extraordinary closeness, the outstanding unit cohesion, the remarkable staying power of the identification with Easy came about because of or in spite of Sobel. Those who did not reply 'Both,' said it was because of Sobel . . . But they nearly all hated him."

Respect

In contrast to Sobel was Second Lt. Dick Winters, platoon leader who "was, and is, all but worshipped by the men of E Company." He had the respect that his C.O. did not have and Sobel hated him. He gave Winters "every dirty job that he could find, such as latrine inspection or serving as mess officer."

The hardships that the men went through served to draw them closer, as well as to weed out weaker elements. After basic training, they went on to jump school, and they were in such great shape that they skipped the first stage and scored 97 percent in a standard physical fitness test.

"As this was the highest score ever recorded for a battalion in the Army, a Colonel Jablonski from Washington thought Strayer [the battalion commander] had rigged the score. Winters recalled, 'They had us run it s second time, officers, men, service personnel, cooks, everybody—and we scored 98 percent.'"

After five jumps, the company qualified as Parachutists and their regiment, the 506th, was officially added to the 101st Airborne. Nine months later they boarded a ship headed for England, to train for the planned invasion of Hitler's Fortress Europe.

Nine months

The company went through nine months of preparation, from September of 1943 to May of 1944. As winter passed, the tension increased and thoughts of deaths were in the air.

Webster, a member of the company and a Harvard English major, wrote his mother, telling her to "stop worrying about me. I joined the parachutists to fight. I intend to fight. If necessary, I shall die fighting, but don't worry about this because no war can be won without young men dying. Those things which are precious are saved only by sacrifice."

In the early morning of June 6, 1944, the 101st made its night jump on Normandy. It was D-Day. "They

AMBROSE'S/ P. G5

YOUR WEEKLY TV GUIDE FROM DEC. 8 - DEC. 14

CH	2	4	5	7	9	13	23	29	31
	5:30 Magandang Gabi, Bayan 7:00 Arriba, Arriba 8:00 Mary D' Potter 9:00 Da Pilya en Da Pilot 10:00 Kakasa Ka Ba? 10:30 Sapul Kayo Dyan 11:00 "F" 11:30 Sports Unlimited	6:00 Auto Review 6:30 Uncut 7:00 Saturday Primetime Special 9:00 The Bodyguards 10:00 Explore with Mike 11:00 Auto Focus 11:30 Fox News	6:30 Wing Commander 7:00 Sailormoon Super S 7:30 Wheel of Fortune 8:00 Celebrity Feud 8:30 Wow Mali! 9:30 Eezy Dancing 10:30 Saturday Night Specials *Home for Christmas*	5:30 Imbestigador 6:30 Korek na Korek Ka Dyan 7:00 Idol Ko Si Kap 8:00 Kakabakaba 9:00 Pinoy Blockbuster 11:00 Master Showman Presents	6:00 Star Trek 7:00 Special Unit II 8:00 Strange World 9:00 Saturday Night Playhouse *Kasiyahan at Awitan sa Pasko* 11:00 PGMA	8:00 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9:00 Kagat Ng Dilim 11:00 IBC Eloide	6:00 Digital Tour 6:30 G2 Living 7:00 Explorer 7:30 Early Edition 8:30 Gilmore Girls 9:30 Studio 23 Presents 12:00 MYX Sampler	3:00 Q Show Case 7:00 Xclusive Cinema Special 9:00 Oras ng Katotohanan 9:30 Armor of God 10:00 Oh Tokyo 11:00 Pinoy Wrestling	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! Coming Attractions 7:00 Celebrity Profile *Joey Macintyre* 9:00 E! True Hollywood Story *New Kids on the Block* 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Uncut *Meg Ryan* 11:30 Extreme Close Up *Penelope Cruz*
	5:30 Sharon 7:00 Digimon 7:30 Wansapanataym 9:00 Pinoy Exposed 9:30 ABS-CBN Presents 11:30 Off The Record 12:00 The Weekend News	3:00 MBA 8:00 Street Legal 9:00 Sunday's Big Showdown 11:00 Business & Leisure 11:30 Fox News	6:00 Zorro 6:30 Guyferd 7:00 Price is Right 8:00 Sing-Galing 9:00 The Big Night *Emmy Awards 2001 Part 1* 11:00 Sentinel	5:30 Partners Mel and Jay 7:00 Pokemon 7:30 Sinerama 9:30 Sunday Night Box Office 11:30 Che-Che Lazaro Presents	6:00 Entertainment This Weekend 7:00 Ripley's Believe It or Not 8:00 Where In Time Is Carmen San Diego 8:30 Kids Say the Darndest Thing 9:00 Sunday's Big Event *Ford Supermodels* 11:00 Sunday Report 11:30 Ugnayan	4:00 PBA Game 1 6:30 PBA Game 2 8:30 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9:30 Sinemaks 11:30 El Shaddai	6:00 Starship Troopers 6:30 Rugrats 7:00 Batman Beyond 7:30 Futurama 8:00 Bette 8:30 Veronica's Closet 9:00 Will & Grace 9:30 Murder in Smalltown X 10:30 Twilight Zone 11:00 News Central	5:00 Quartermaster Window Shop 7:00 Sunday Mini-Series 8:00 Oh Tokyo 9:00 Sunday Night Movies 11:00 Bikini Open	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! Coming Attractions 7:00 E! Special *Britney to Beatles* 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story *The Last Days of John Lennon* 10:00 In Focus *Entertainment London* 11:00 60 Minutes
	6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Game K N B? 8:30 Pangako sa 'Yo 9:00 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 9:30 Sa Puso Ko, Iingatan Ka 10:00 FPJ Action Cinema 11:00 Headlines 11:30 The Correspondents	5:00 Metro TV 6:00 Value Vision 7:00 Sigaw 8:00 Tele-Dyaryo 10:00 Speed 11:00 Unlimited Diving	6:00 Balitang-Balita 6:30 F 7:00 Mahha Go Go Go 7:30 Wheel Of Fortune 8:00 Family Feud 8:30 Touched By An Angel 9:30 Trabaho Lang 10:00 The Big News 10:30 High Tide	6:00 Saksi 6:30 DragonballZ 7:00 Sorcerer Hunter 7:30 Sana ay Ikaw Na Nga 8:00 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin 8:30 Monica Brava 9:00 GMA's Best 11:00 Front Page 11:30 I-Witness	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Sin Ti 6:30 Real TV 7:00 Becker 7:30 Arliss 8:00 World's Most Amazing Videos 9:00 The X-Files 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 Entertainment Tonight 11:00 Sex & The City	5:30 Viva Music Channel 6:30 Viva Box Office 8:30 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9:30 The Weakest Link 10:30 Por Un Beso 11:00 Ronda Trese 11:30 Good Take	6:00 Beat UK 7:00 Primetime Classics 7:30 The Nanny 8:00 Dark Angel 9:00 Charmed 10:00 News Central 10:30 Points of View 11:30 Jenny Jones 12:00 MYX Sampler	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan 10:00 Q Showcase	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Daily 7:00 In Focus *Fantasy Adventures* 8:00 Mysteries and Scandals 8:30 Search Party 9:00 Fashion Emergency 9:30 E! News Daily 10:00 60 Minutes 11:00 Wild On *"A" List* 12:00 Talk Soup
	6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Game K N B? 8:30 Pangako sa 'Yo 9:00 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 9:30 Sa Puso Ko, Iingatan Ka 10:00 Oka Tokat 10:30 Kabalikat 11:00 Headlines 11:30 Mission X	5:00 Value Vision 6:00 Fox News 8:00 Tele-Dyaryo 10:00 Pulsong Masa 11:00 Fox News	6:00 Balitang-Balita 6:30 Dragon League 7:00 2 Years Vacation w/ Dinosaurs 7:30 Wheel of Fortune 8:00 Family Feud 8:30 E.R. 9:30 Urban Doktor 10:00 The Big News 10:30 FX The Series	6:00 Saksi 6:30 DragonballZ 7:00 Sorcerer Hunter 7:30 Sana ay Ikaw Na Nga 8:00 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin 8:30 Monica Brava 9:00 Kool Ka Lang 10:00 Kasangga 11:00 Front Page 11:30 The Probe Team	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Sin Ti 6:30 Real TV 7:00 Ed 8:00 Ally McBeal 9:00 The Practice 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 Entertainment Tonight 11:30 The Extremist	6:30 Viva Box Office 8:30 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9:30 The Weakest Link 10:30 Por Un Beso 11:00 Ronda Trese 11:30 Good Take	6:00 Later with Jools 7:00 Primetime Classics 7:30 Popular 8:30 The Others 9:30 Just Shoot Me 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:30 Zine 12:00 MYX Sampler	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Ang Dating Daan (Live)	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Daily 7:00 Celebrity Profile 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story 9:00 Celebrity Homes 9:30 E! News Daily 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Uncut *Alec Bladwin* 11:30 Extreme Close Up 12:00 Talk Soup
	6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Game K N B? 8:30 Pangako sa 'Yo 9:00 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 9:30 Sa Puso Ko, Iingatan Ka 10:00 Whattamen 10:30 Your Honor 11:00 Headlines 11:30 ISYU 101	4:00 MBA 8:00 Tele-Dyaryo 10:00 Paco Park Presents 11:00 Fox News	6:00 Balitang-Balita 6:30 Pygmalio 7:00 Time Quest 7:30 Wheel of Fortune 8:00 Family Feud 8:30 Friends 9:00 That '70s Show 9:30 Planet X 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Philippines Most Wanted	6:00 Saksi 6:30 DragonballZ 7:00 Sorcerer Hunter 7:30 Sana ay Ikaw Na Nga 8:00 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin 8:30 Monica Brava 9:00 Beh Bote Nga 10:00 Larawan 11:00 Front Page 11:30 Jessica Soho Reports	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Sin Ti 6:30 Real TV 7:00 Level 9 8:00 In Runs In the family 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 Entertainment Tonight 11:00 Wrestling	5:00 PBA Game 1 7:30 PBA Game 2 9:30 The Weakest Link 10:30 Por Un Beso 11:00 Ronda Trese 11:30 Good Take	6:00 New Music 6:30 Soundcheck 7:00 Premtime Classics 7:30 Scariest Places 8:30 Game Plan 9:00 The District 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan 10:00 Q Showcase	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Daily 7:00 In Focus *Theme Parks Ago-go* 8:00 Mysteries And Scandals 8:30 Search Party 9:00 Fashion Emergency 9:30 E! News Daily 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Wild On *West* 12:00 Talk Soup
	6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Game K N B? 8:30 Pangako sa 'Yo 9:00 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 9:30 Sa Puso Ko, Iingatan Ka 10:00 Attagirl 10:30 Maalaala Mo Kaya 11:00 Headlines 11:30 Pipol	4:00 Shop @ Home 5:00 Value Vision 6:00 Fox News 8:00 Tele-Dyaryo 10:00 Concert At The Park 11:00 Fora Medica	6:00 Balitang-Balita 6:30 Shulato 7:00 Fancy Lala 7:30 Wheel of Fortune 8:00 Family Feud 8:30 Guinnes World Records 9:30 The Exchange 10:00 The Big News 10:30 By Request *Andrea Bocelli Chelo Di Tuscana*	6:00 Saksi 6:30 DragonballZ 7:00 Sorcerer Hunter 7:30 Sana ay Ikaw Na Nga 8:00 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin 8:30 Monica Brava 9:00 Daddy Di Do Du 10:00 Sa Dako Pa Roon 11:00 Front Page 11:30 Debate with Mare at Pare	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Sin Ti 6:30 Real TV 7:00 Clueless 8:00 Felicity 9:00 Once and Again 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 Entertainment Tonight 11:30 48 Hours	6:30 Viva Box Office 8:30 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9:30 The Weakest Link 10:30 Por Un Beso 11:00 Ronda Trese 11:30 Good Take	6:00 Behind The Music 7:00 Primetime Classics 7:30 Cineplex 23 9:30 Guide to Urban Living 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:30 Travel Time 12:00 MYX Sampler	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan 10:00 Q Showcase	6:30 E! News Daily 7:00 Celebrity Profile 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story 9:00 Celebrity Homes 9:30 E! News Daily 10:30 David Letterman 11:00 Uncut 11:30 Extreme Close Up *Penelope Cruz* 12:00 Talk Soup
	6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Game K N B? 8:30 Pangako sa 'Yo 9:00 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 9:30 Sa Puso Ko, Iingatan Ka 10:00 Star Cinema Presents 11:00 Headlines 11:30 True Crime	4:00 MBA 8:00 Tele-Dyaryo 10:00 Patrol 117 11:00 Fox News	6:00 Balitang-Balita 6:30 Lazer Patrol 7:00 Starcom 7:30 Wheel Of Fortune 8:00 Family Feud 8:30 Ispup 9:30 On-Air 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Friday Box Office *Prancer*	6:00 Saksi 6:30 DragonballZ 7:00 Sorcerer Hunter 7:30 Sana ay Ikaw Na Nga 8:00 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin 8:30 Monica Brava 9:00 Bubble Gang 10:00 GMA Love Stories 11:00 Front Page 11:30 Emergency	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Sin Ti 6:30 Real TV 7:00 That's Life 8:00 Christmas Glory Fr. Westminster Abbey 9:00 Largo 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 TV Greats on Friday *Regine Christmas Special 2*	5:00 PBA Game 1 7:30 PBA Game 2 9:30 The Weakest Link 10:30 Por Un Beso 11:00 Ronda Trese 11:30 Good Take	6:00 Halo-Halo 7:00 Primetime CLassics 7:30 Survivor: Africa 8:30 Mortal Combat 9:30 Oh Grow Up! 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:30 Jenny Jones 12:30 MYX Sampler	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Ang Dating Daan (Live)	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Daily 7:00 In Focus *Dream Destinations* 8:00 Mysteries & Scandals 8:30 Search Party 9:00 Fashion Emergency 9:30 E! News Daily 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Wild On *Resorts* 12:00 Talk Soup

Meet Kristell Le Goff, young supermodel in the making

LE GOFF. AT only 13 years of age, she's 5' 81/2" tall.

(From page G1)

think? She is also a consistent honors student in a Long Island Middle School, was accelerated for Math and French and, best of all, was in the top 24 percent of the SAT exams for college.

Mathematician

Who is Kristell Le Goff? Her middle name is Valdez. Her French father is a mathematician, Regis Legoff. Note, therefore, that the daughter is proficient in numbers, too.

Okay, that explains the proficiency with numbers and the French language. Where did the flair for modeling and fashion come from? From her mom, that's who. And, pray tell, who is her mother?

None other than Susan Valdez, a film, stage and television actress of the '70s and '80s who was also a signature model of Danilo Franco. She made her screen debut in Mike de Leon's "Itim" and went on to make many other films.

She also branched out to television hosting "Kapwa Mo Mahal Ko" with Orly Mercado. She distinguished herself in many stage plays, productions like "Larawan" with distinguished actress Barbara Perez for the UP Repertory Company in 1982.

She went to the States in 1987, and married Regis after they met at the wedding of her sister in New York. She bore Kristell and a son, Juliene, in quick succession, playing mother and wife while her career was put on hold.

In 1995, I staged Amelia Lapeña Bonifacio's "Walking Canes and Fans" for the New York Filipino community. Susan portrayed the role of the revolutionary mother with zeal and poignancy, winning both critics and audiences over with her fine characterization. I also used her to for the month of August of the AT&T calendar I prepared that same year under the conscientious supervision of Marlene Suarez of Pintig, a cultural group I worked with while I was in New York.

Priorities

Obviously, Susan's love for acting did not wane. She had her priorities, however. She bent her schedule to allow her the required rehearsal time for "Walking Canes and Fans." The role she played was crucial in practically every scene. There were offers for her to appear in other plays but she had to set her priorities straight, as wife, mother and insurance agent for Met Life.

She was asked to appear in a few Pinoy films shot there but only recently accepted a supporting role in Laurice Guillen's "American Adobo," now in preview in select moviehouses in Manhattan.

She noted Kristell's many possibilities and wisely urged her to participate in extra-curricular activities that would enhance her background for a career in modeling, should she be interested and should the opportunities prove ripe and profitable. There is the college tuition to think about, right?

Just like a proud mother, Susan gave me copies of Kristell's pictures taken by noted photographer Jun de Leon when he went to the Big Apple for a visit. She looks too mature, I told Susan, remembering the very young Kristell who still calls me Tito. She did, after all, grow up almost in front of my eyes.

Beautiful teeth

Does she look this mature, this serious? "That's the look Jun wanted" Susan exclaimed. Where are the beautiful teeth for, perchance, a toothpaste commercial, I asked? "She's got a fine set of teeth," proud mama Susan assured me.

"Why don't you represent Kristell in Manila?" Susan asked me. "Me?" I don't do that sort of thing. I'm not good at that, but certainly we can find someone who does this professionally.

I can write about her, that's for sure and should anyone be interested (and, there should be many!), I can be your contact in Manila in the meantime.

When can Kristell come to Manila for proper scrutiny *and* needed exposure? "This coming summer, from the middle of August to September." Susan informed me. "She will need to save up for her college degree, after all," the practical mom added.

Okay, interested parties, fall in line. Introducing tall and attractive, affable and bright Kristell Valdez Le Goff, young supermodel in the making. Contact numbers will be given upon request!

SUSAN Valdez, Kristell's mother, appeared in many films in the Philippines in the '80s.

The Freshmen sign contract with Star Records

MULTIPLE Awit Award-winner Star Records added another promising group to its roster after up-and-coming band The Freshmen signed an exclusive recording deal with the company. First exposed to the public through "Trip Mo Ba?" the carrier single off the gold record "Trip" movie soundtrack, The Freshmen have begun to form an enthusiastic fanbase through mall tours and radio appearances.

Musical talent

Six good-looking young men from all over Luzon make up The Freshmen, which was formed after a long audition process supervised by the group's manager, Ernie dela Cruz. Better known as the father of soap actress Angelika dela Cruz, "Daddy Ernie" had it in mind to create a band that would equal the heartthrob power of boy bands like N'Sync and the Backstreet Boys, but with musical talent to spare.

Soon enough, The Freshmen were chosen, starting with Edward dela Cruz, Angelika's younger brother and former member of the Abstract Dancers, who is the group's lead guitarist. Next came Jerome Raymundo, a UST music student, and The Freshmen's bassist. The audition process unearthed talents like vocalists Walton Zerrudo, the youngest Freshman and a protege of composer Vehnee Saturno, who was quickly signed on as one of the group's vocalists. Sharing vocal duties is Rowel Aldana, who at his young age already had experience as a band member in his native Pampanga.

Graduate

Keyboardist Jayson Caimol answered an ad in the paper while working towards his college degree; now a graduate, he plays with the band full-time. Finally, Daziel Ledda beat out 15 aspirants at the Baguio leg of the audition process to become The Freshmen's drummer.

When asked to describe themselves, the Freshmen come up with the cute phrase "boy band band." Whereas the prototype of the boy band only requires its members to sing, dance and look good for the cameras, The Freshmen play their own instruments, and are getting a reputation for being remarkably versatile: in their bi-weekly performance gigs at Padi's Point and Soundstage.

That said, the boys have taken serious measures to firm up the sound of the group: all six have decided to move into the same house and fine-tune their playing, of which the soothing sounds of "Trip Mo Ba?" is only the first of many directions they are planning to pursue. "We just want to be ready for whatever places our career will take us," says Edward.

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THE FRESHMEN. Can sing *and* play their own instruments.

Ely Buendia to try film directing

BY RICKY T. GALLARDO

ERASERHEADS lead vocalist Ely Buendia is bent on fulfilling his long-time dream of becoming a movie director. When actor-producer Derek Dee offered Buendia a role in his next project, the former UP Film student turned it down but told Dee that he is more interested in directing.

The wild idea was taken seriously by Dee and his family-owned production outfit Third Eye Film Studios, and just last week, Buendia signed a contract to direct a film new year.

For Buendia, the hardest part may be the pre-production stage, which is now, considering that there is no script yet and only storylines have been developed. "We'll see where it leads to," Buendia teases, "but I'll give it my best shot!"

Early Christmas gift from Martin

We think that the best gift a first-rate singer like Martin Nievera can give his audience is not so much his impressive range nor his capacity to sustain a difficult note. Rather, it's how he uses his songs to affect his listeners, touch their hearts, and affirm their belief in the more positive aspects of life.

No doubt, Martin is aware of this, that's why when the executives of Maximedia International approached him for a Christmas concert, he said yes right away.

BUENDIA. Will give directing his best shot.

With what has been happening to our world, a night or two of inspiring music will definitely go a long way. Billed as "A Song for Peace," Martin's two-night concert at the PICC will have as special guests Lani Misalucha (next Friday) and Lea Salonga (December 15) and they will perform with a 50-piece orchestra and an unprecedented 100-voice chorale.

Incidentally, Martin just launched the "Can't Stop Christmas" campaign for the Gift Gate group of companies, sending the same message: that no matter how confused and chaotic the world might seem to be, the true message of Christmas lives on in our hearts.

Cinemagic Youth Film Week is on

Aside from the forthcoming CineManila International Film Festival, there's the Cinemagic Youth Film Week which opened yesterday at Robinson's Movieworld. The event is organized by Councilor Kim Atienza and the Pinoy Magic Lantern Association.

The film week, ongoing until the 11th, aims to encourage young people to better appreciate values, cinematic heritage, and the social relevance films impart.

Comic Lab opens in Malate

There's a new entertainment place which recently opened in the heart of Malate. Comic Laboratory is the sister club of The Library, a sing-along bar which has launched the careers of many of our most gifted stand-up comedy artists like Ai-Ai de las Alas, Allan K., and Philip Lazaro.

Disney on Ice fever to hit Manila

Feld Entertainment brings "Disney on Ice" to the Araneta Coliseum from Dec. 22 to Jan. 6, in celebration of 100 years of Disney Magic.

With a total of 52 skating performers from 14 countries, the show will bring to life Walt Disney's unforgettable tales and captivating characters. And, for the first time on ice, enchanting moments from "Mulan," "A Bug's Life" and "The Lion King" will be performed in the Philippines.

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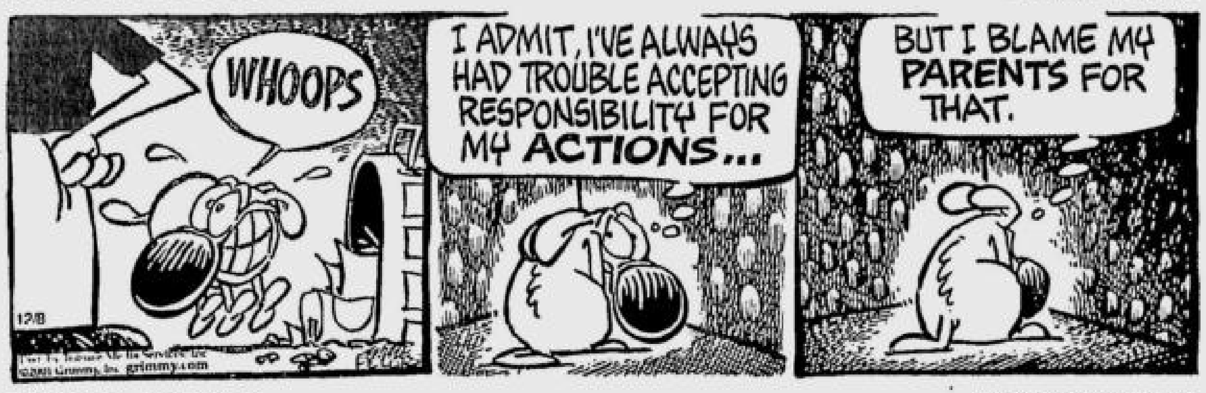
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM
BY MIKE PETERS


WHOOPS
I ADMIT, I'VE ALWAYS HAD TROUBLE ACCEPTING RESPONSIBILITY FOR MY ACTIONS...
BUT I BLAME MY PARENTS FOR THAT.
12/8
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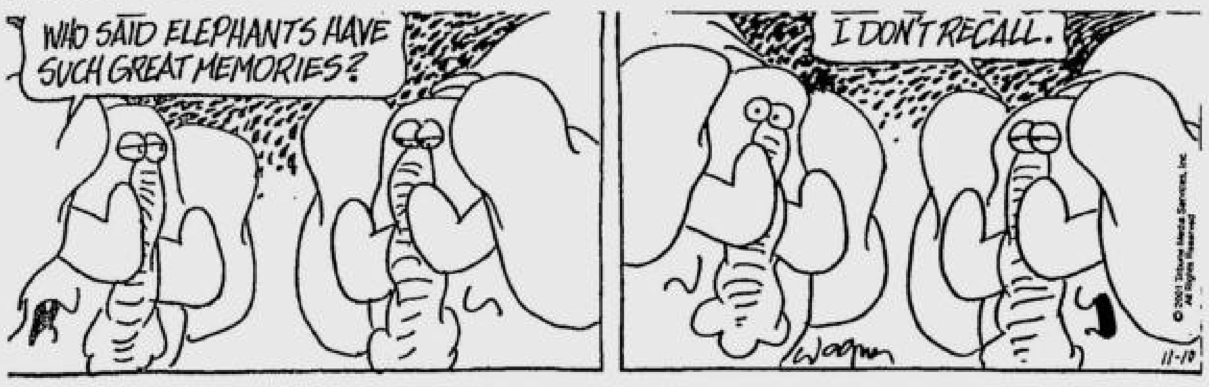
ANIMAL CRACKER
BY FRED WAGNER


WHO SAID ELEPHANTS HAVE SUCH GREAT MEMORIES?
I DON'T RECALL.
Wagner
11-18
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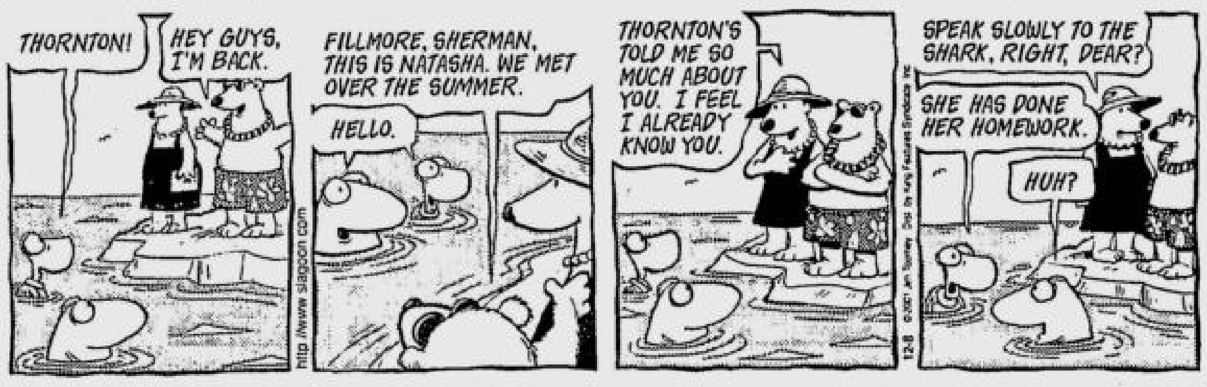
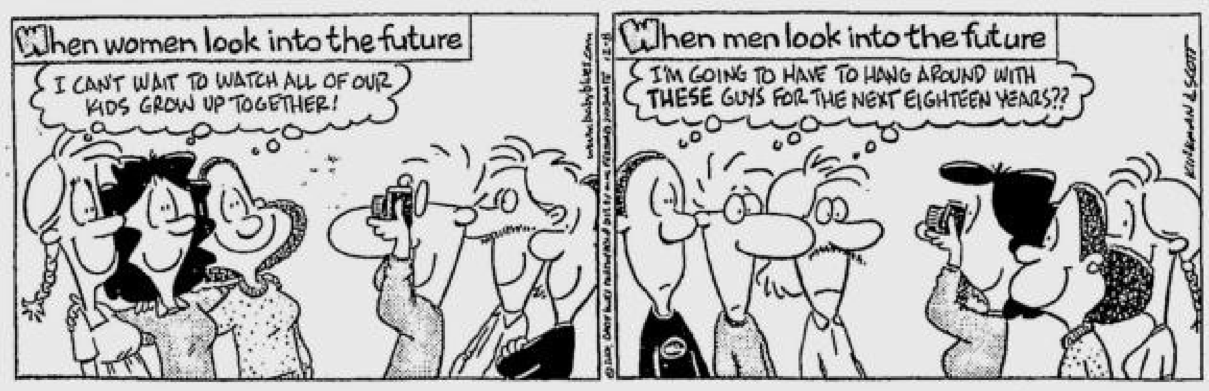
SHERMAN'S LAGOON
BY JIM TOOMEY


THORNTON!
HEY GUYS, I'M BACK.
FILLMORE, SHERMAN, THIS IS NATASHA. WE MET OVER THE SUMMER.
HELLO.
THORNTON'S TOLD ME SO MUCH ABOUT YOU. I FEEL I ALREADY KNOW YOU.
SPEAK SLOWLY TO THE SHARK, RIGHT, DEAR?
SHE HAS DONE HER HOMEWORK.
HUH?
http://www.slagoon.com
12-8

BABY BLUES
BY JERRY SCOTT


When women look into the future
I CAN'T WAIT TO WATCH ALL OF OUR KIDS GROW UP TOGETHER!
When men look into the future
I'M GOING TO HAVE TO HANG AROUND WITH THESE GUYS FOR THE NEXT EIGHTEEN YEARS??
www.babyblues.com
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Maximilian Schell, James Galway, Kim Basinger, Sinead O'Connor, David Carradine

Happy Birthday: You will have no problem finishing whatever you start this year. High energy and determination will help you take on projects that others would feel intimidated by however you will make it look easy as you swiftly move into fast forward. You would rather push yourself to the limit than have to admit defeat. Your own stubbornness will lead you to the success you are looking for. Your numbers: 11, 17, 22, 25, 31, 46

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Partnerships may feel the strain if one of you has been erratic and hard to deal with. Try to stay calm and remember that there are always two sides to the story.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Socializing or traveling will lead to a wonderful new partnership. You may want to keep your guard up when dealing with fast-talking individuals who are trying to sell you something.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Your enthusiasm and energetic nature will help you through this rather hectic day. Ask friends or family to help if you have a big project to finish .

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't let anyone get to you today. Emotional upset will cause minor illness. Try not to confront issues until you have the strength to cope with the outcome. You are best to do your own thing and relax with a good book or a feel good video.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You have probably been spending too much lately. If you can put in some overtime or get a part time job in order to pay for the bills you have incurred.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Your ability to come up with good solutions will come in handy. You will get the support you need to follow through with your plans. The more you get done today the better you will feel.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Sit back and relax before you decide to take on an emotional issue that could lead to relationship troubles. You will overreact today so think twice before you retaliate.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You can make a difference if you put your efforts into making changes to your home. This could turn out to be a very fruitful day.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Join in and add your two cents worth. You can do well in group endeavors. Your ability to take hold of a situation will bring you popularity and leadership.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Try not to become too upset with yourself or with someone you care about. Emotional upset will be due to deception where a partnership is concerned. You must be extremely careful not to let relatives or friends interfere in your personal life.

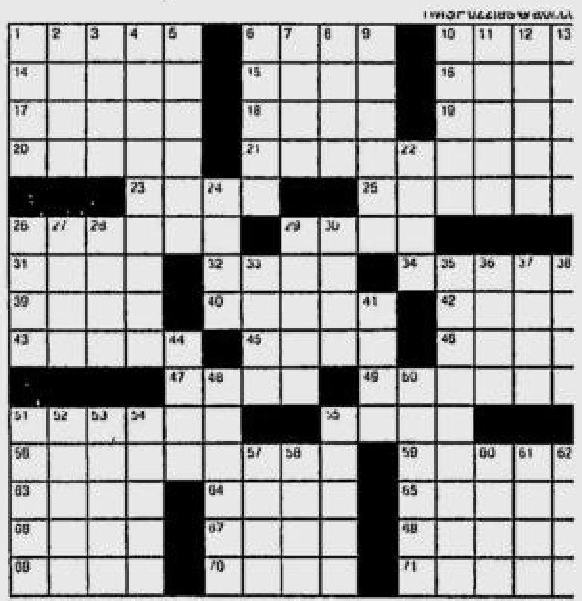
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You are best to solve your own problems. You will be ill treated if you have to deal with institutions today. Talk to people who will discuss your problems in detail .

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You must use discretion. Large organizations may try to talk you into giving a donation that is not in your budget. You should take good care of your health, get lots of rest and eat properly.

Birthday Baby: Caring, cuddly and cute best describes you. You are always willing to go the extra mile to help someone you care about. You have a creative imagination that is entertaining, charming and will result in added popularity.

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Humiliate
6 Headliner
10 Egyptian cobras
14 Waldorf, e.g.
15 Theater section
16 Stylish
17 Teheran man
18 Cupid
19 Evaluate
20 Dispatches
21 Mid-range club for a 56A
23 Job to do
25 Thyroid treatment
26 Peaceful
29 Mountain passes
31 "Ars Amatoria" poet
32 Semi-eternity?
34 Bethlehem product
39 Hollow tooth
40 Plug projection
42 Jekyll's alter ego
43 Chilean range
45 Notion
46 Bridle strap
47 Top cards
49 Invitees
51 Bakery item
55 Hard to come by
56 Problem with a pair of golf socks?
59 Flooded bottomland
63 Vicinity
64 Lupino and Tarbell
65 Ancient region in Asia Minor
66 From __ to stern
67 Issue a ticket to
68 Well-known
69 Has a bite
70 C.P. or Phoebe
71 Idyllic gardens



By Eugene R. Puffenberger
Houston, TX
10/24/

DOWN
1 Fire-sale warning
2 Expose
3 Actor Arkin
4 Short club for a 56A
5 Phonograph inventor
6 Glossy
7 Singer Amos
8 Keyed up
9 Send to a new address
10 Pungent
11 Puppeteer Lewis
12 Climber's device
13 Part of an act
22 Soft throw
24 Gather in
26 Davenport
27 Writer Hunter
28 Orange coat
29 Wares
30 "__ of Green Gables"
33 Pennsylvania port
35 Long club for a 56A
36 Face features
37 Work on manuscripts
38 Camera element
41 Bonkers
44 Indian garb
48 Pessimistic people
50 Bearlike
51 Lunar aspect
52 Principal artery
53 Fall as ice
54 Sides in sport
56 Stitch again
57 Norse Zeus
58 W. alliance
60 Contribution to the pot
61 Bearing
62 Paper tablets

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

G	O	G	O	■	S	P	L	A	Y	■	O	K	L
O	D	O	R	■	C	L	A	R	E	■	C	E	O
N	I	T	E	■	R	E	N	A	L	■	A	A	R
E	N	O	■	G	O	B	A	L	L	I	S	T	I
■	■	P	R	U	D	E	■	■	O	D	E	S	S
A	P	R	O	N	■	S	U	B	W	A	Y	■	■
C	H	E	C	K	S	■	T	R	I	S	■	G	I
R	I	S	K	■	H	I	T	O	N	■	D	O	N
E	L	S	■	C	O	R	E	■	G	R	A	F	T
■	■	■	S	H	E	A	R	S	■	E	N	O	L
A	T	O	N	E	S	■	■	C	L	E	A	R	■
G	O	B	Y	T	H	E	B	O	O	K	■	G	E
O	P	E	D	■	I	R	E	N	E	■	T	O	N
R	U	S	E	■	N	A	R	C	S	■	S	L	I
A	P	E	R	■	E	S	T	E	S	■	E	D	D

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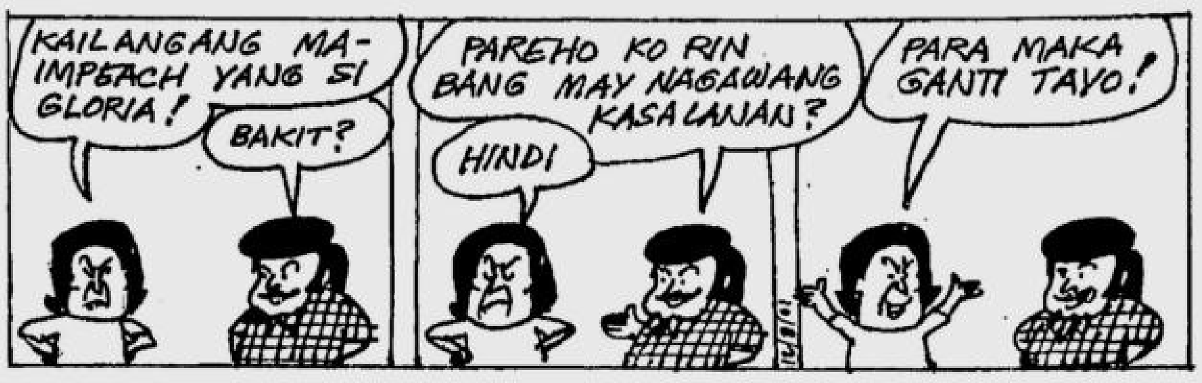
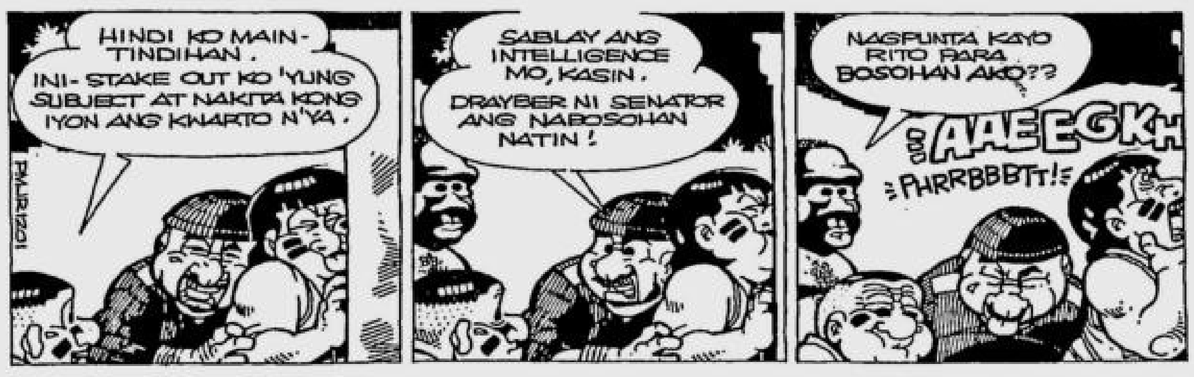
10/24

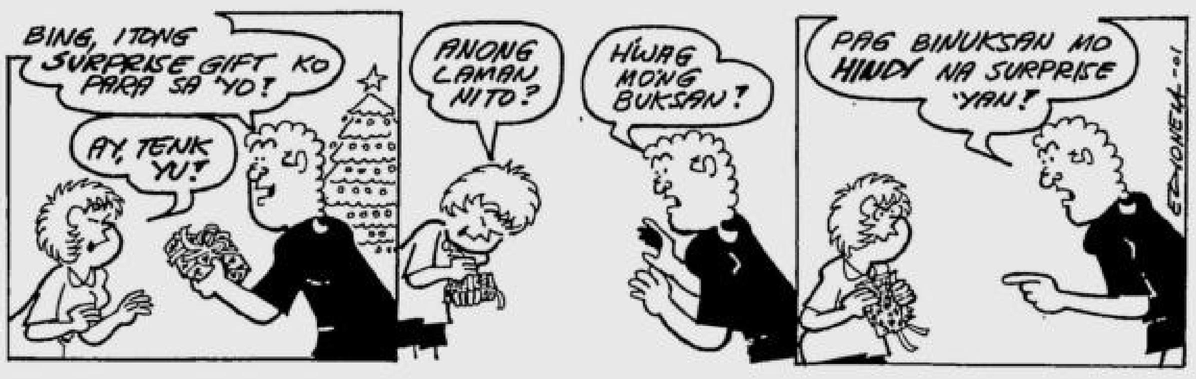
A. LIPIN
BY JESS ABRERA


KAILANGANG MA-IMPEACH YANG SI GLORIA!
BAKIT?
PAREHO KO RIN BANG MAY NAGAWANG KASALANAN?
HINDI
PARA MAKA GANTI TAYO!

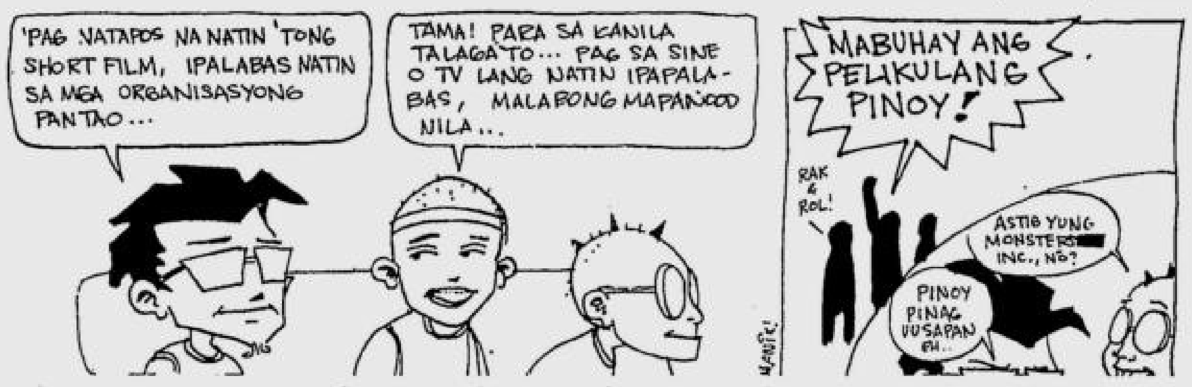
PUGAD BABOY
BY P.M. JUNIOR


HINDI KO MAIN-TINDIHAN.
INI-STAKE OUT KO 'YUNG SUBJECT AT NAKITA KONG IYON ANG KWARTO N'YA.
SABLAY ANG INTELLIGENCE MO, KASIN.
DRAYBER NI SENATOR ANG NABOSOHAN NATIN!
NAGPUNTA KAYO RITO PARA BOSOHAN AKO??
AAAEEGKH
PHRRBBBTT!
PMJR1201

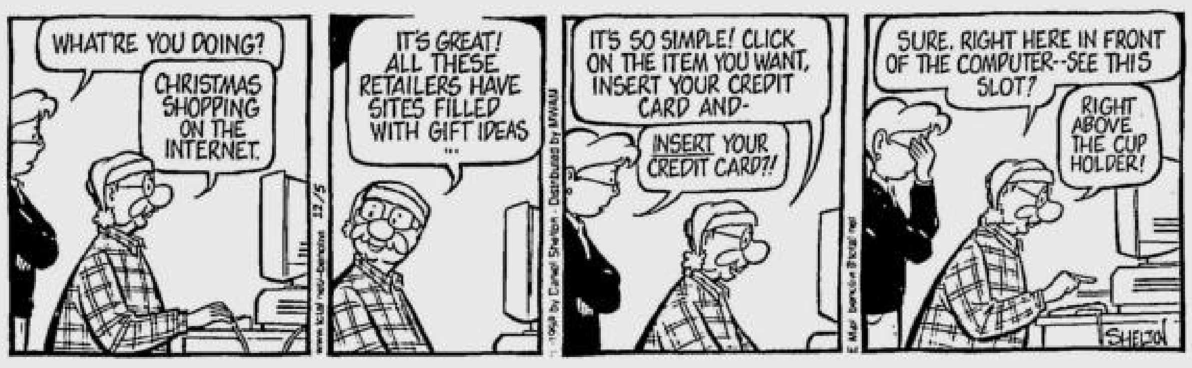
SIMO
BY EDGAR DIONELA


BING, ITONG SURPRISE GIFT KO PARA SA 'YO!
AY, TENK YU!
ANONG LAMAN NITO?
HWAG MONG BUKSAN!
PAG BINUKSAN MO HINDI NA SURPRISE 'YAN!
EDIONELA-01

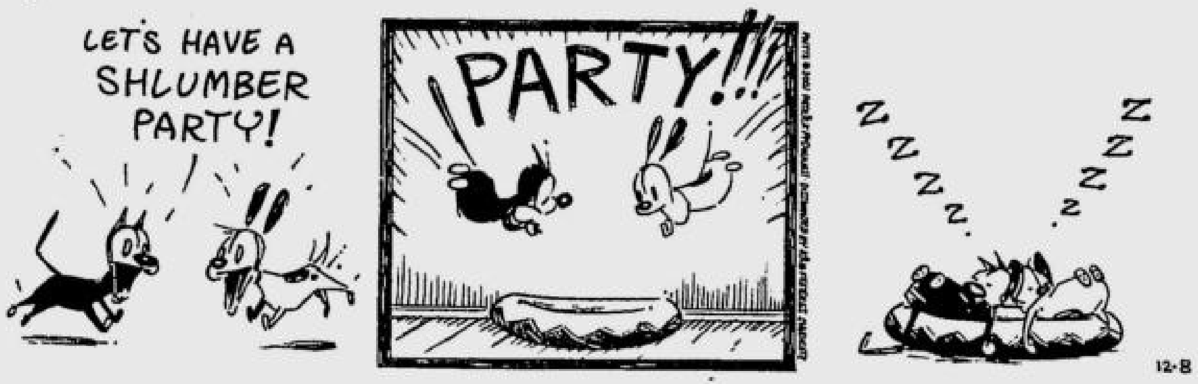
GARAPATA BLOOD
BY JOHN PAUL/BENG/MANIX


'PAG NATAPOS NA NATIN 'TONG SHORT FILM, IPALABAS NATIN SA MGA ORGANISASYONG PANTAO...
TAMA! PARA SA KANILA TALAGA TO... PAG SA SINE O TV LANG NATIN IPAPALABAS, MALABONG MAPANOOD NILA...
MABUHAY ANG PELIKULANG PINOY!
RAK & ROL!
ASTIG YUNG MONSTERS INC., NO?
PINOY PINAG UUSAPAN EH...
MANIX!

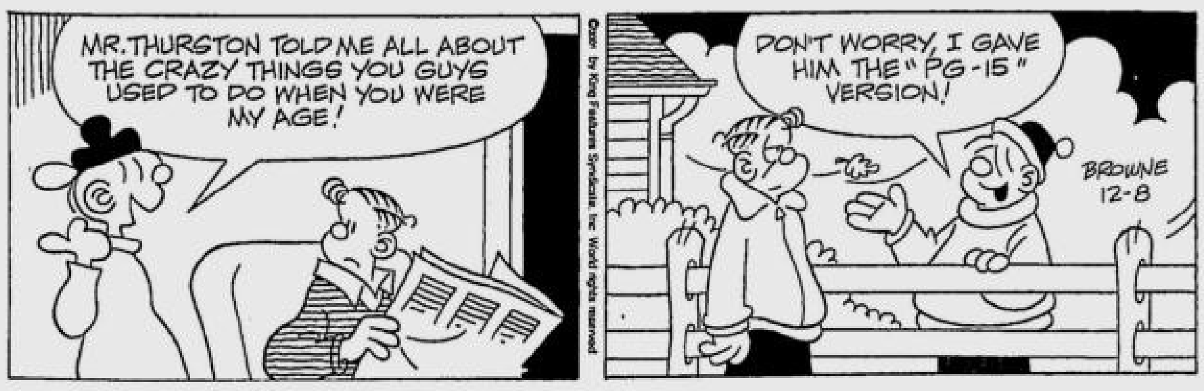
BEN
BY DANIEL SHELTON


WHAT'RE YOU DOING?
CHRISTMAS SHOPPING ON THE INTERNET.
IT'S GREAT! ALL THESE RETAILERS HAVE SITES FILLED WITH GIFT IDEAS ...
IT'S SO SIMPLE! CLICK ON THE ITEM YOU WANT, INSERT YOUR CREDIT CARD AND-
INSERT YOUR CREDIT CARD?!
SURE. RIGHT HERE IN FRONT OF THE COMPUTER--SEE THIS SLOT?
RIGHT ABOVE THE CUP HOLDER!
12/5
SHELTON

MUTTS
BY PATRICK McDONNELL


LET'S HAVE A SHLUMBER PARTY!
PARTY!!!
Z Z Z Z
Z Z Z Z
12-8

HI AND LOIS
BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


MR. THURSTON TOLD ME ALL ABOUT THE CRAZY THINGS YOU GUYS USED TO DO WHEN YOU WERE MY AGE!
DON'T WORRY, I GAVE HIM THE "PG-15" VERSION!
BROWNE 12-8
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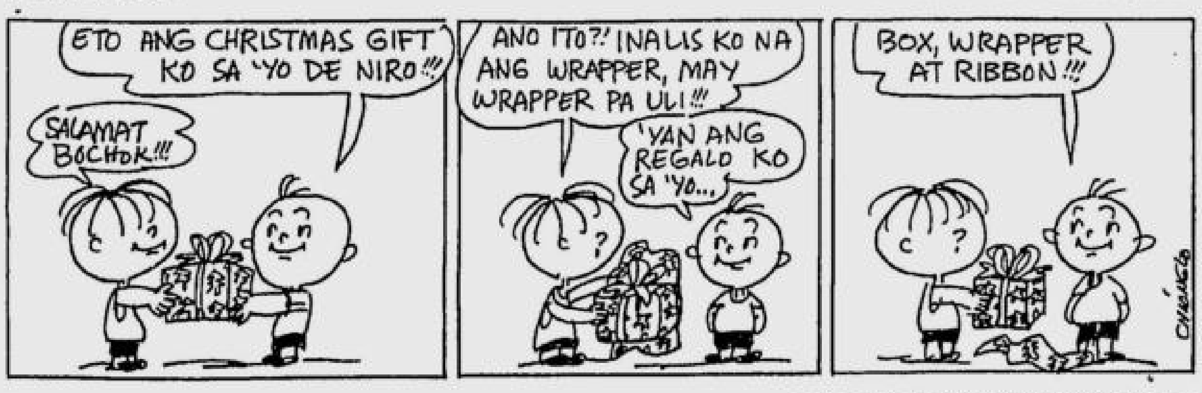
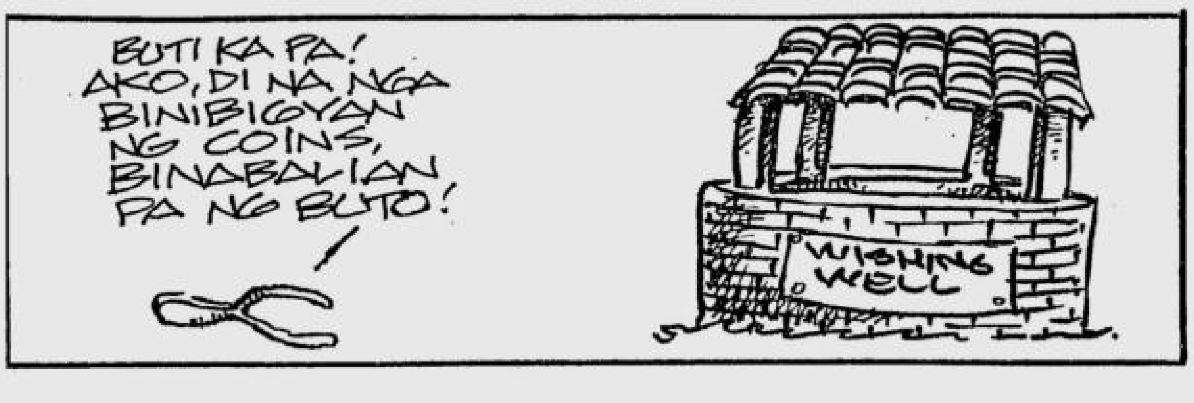
LOVEKNOTS
BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


ETO ANG CHRISTMAS GIFT KO SA 'YO DE NIRO!!!
SALAMAT BOCHOK!!!
ANO ITO?! INALIS KO NA ANG WRAPPER, MAY WRAPPER PA ULI!!!
'YAN ANG REGALO KO SA 'YO...
BOX, WRAPPER AT RIBBON!!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK
BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING


BUTI KA PA! AKO, DI NA NGA BINIBIGYAN NG COINS, BINABALIAN PA NG BUTO!
WISHING WELL

UP Mindanao Cultural Center preserves a rich heritage

MINDANAO is known for its embattled state, rife with encounters between the Abu Sayyaf and the military, abductions, violence, poverty and hunger. What few realize is that Mindanao is rich in culture, history, myths and legends from divergent groups and tribes.

Enterprising spirit

Manila may hold much of the bigger museums that preserve the country's heritage, but with the enterprising spirit of Maria Araceli "Marcy" Dans-Lee, the University of the Philippines Mindanao Cultural Center (UPMCC) in Davao is on its way to becoming a sanctuary for an expansive culture.

Conceived in 1996 by then UP president Emil Javier, the responsibility for establishing the center was handed to Lee, daughter of renowned artist Araceli Limcaco Dans. The former head of the UP College of Fine Arts' Visual Communication department, a master's degree holder in Art History, and a children's book author, Lee is unarguably qualified to carry on the task.

SULYAP will be a permanent exhibition which will offer an abbreviated version of what the center will showcase.

Beyond credentials, Lee is driven to put up a structure that will exhibit and preserve the richness of Mindanao, which according to her, is a "bastion of cultural heritage."

Contemporary art

"The UPMCC will be about contemporary art and its relationship with indigenous, historical matters," says Lee. It is also committed to provide a comprehensive view of Mindanao's past and cultural life and heritage through knowledge, reflection and action. It will be a focal point for visual arts, theater, dance, music, literature, film, architecture and museology.

When completed in May 2002, the cultural center will boast of an art gallery, a museum shop, a library, a conference room, a photography darkroom and a sculpture garden. It will also house Sulyap, a permanent exhibition which, in lieu of a brochure, will offer an abbreviated version of what the center will showcase.

The project started in 1997 with Sulyap, an art gallery, a museum shop and a photo laboratory. Since then, however, all that has had to be demolished. The cash-strapped center moved twice before settling on a 10-hectare lot owned by UP in Mintal, Davao where the UPMCC is a-building. Only one-third of it is completed because there is not enough money to finish construction.

FROM left, UPMCC director Marcy Dans-Lee, Araceli Dans, Cecil Jacinto and Jom Ignacio.

Seeing a noble project in the making, Manulife Philippines extended a hand to donate P100,000 toward the building. "This presents us with an opportunity to help preserve our culture for future generations," says Manulife VP for marketing Jom Ignacio.

"It goes hand in hand with the company's emphasis on helping Filipino children by preserving our country's most valuable heritage for generations to come." Manulife, whose Corporate Giving program extends around the globe, is the first donor for the endeavor.

Indigenous tribes

More than just a museum, the UPMCC is also committed to assist indigenous tribes to appreciate their culture, as well as provide them with jobs. "What we are offering the community is for the cultural center to become a repository and a safeguard for their heirlooms. Poverty forces them to sell their heirlooms for food, clothing and schooling for the kids," Lee says.

One such tribe helped is the T'boli, whose weavers dream about the design they will create, and then cloister themselves for two weeks to produce a meter of the pattern which will serve as a guide to replicate.

With the Bagobos, it is the elders of the community who decide for women, the only ones allowed to weave, what colors they are permitted to use because there is a "hierarchy of colors" in the tribe. There are also certain colors that can not be handled if a woman has her monthly period.

Prints

Araceli Dans, recognizing the significance of the project, lent a hand and donated prints of her paintings. Lee decided to give them away as tokens for every P30,000 given by donors. "Aside from helping us out, the donor gets something in return and it makes them more aware of the cause they helped," Lee says. For their donation, Manulife received three prints of Dans' esteemed works.

Lee is sure to see her dream succeed with all the encouragement she receives, foremost from her mother. Dans is aware of the wisdom of her daughter's endeavor: "Very few people know the value of putting up a museum. You're setting up roots and you're conserving it.

"A country without a museum, without a past, without any historical identity may as well have no soul. And even if you don't come to the foreground because sometimes you won't be recognized, never mind, because what you have contributed is something that will outlive you."

Dreams do come true for Gabrielle

BY RICKY T. GALLARDO

"MY success is a huge roller coaster ride with people debating whether I had one eye instead of two."

Indeed, in the beginning, that was the case for singer-songwriter, Gabrielle.

First single

When she first sauntered onto the entertainment stage eight years ago, the novelty of wearing a patch on one eye fueled talks regarding her "handicap."

But then her first single, "Dreams," went all the way to No. 1 in the U.K. charts. Instantly, the patch was overlooked. And for Gabrielle, there was no looking back. "I never imagined myself to be this notorious patched-eyed singer performing in a lazy voice to people," says she of her singing style. "I have been writing songs since I was 13 and all that mattered was to get out there and sing."

Born in East London, Gabrielle began getting attracted to music at a tender age. By the time she hit 19, she was already performing in clubs at South East London. At first, she allowed herself to be relegated to the background for being "innately shy."

Eventually, though, she realized that to fulfill her dreams, she had to step up to the spotlight. "I thought, if I can't sing in front of 20 people, what more to 2000? I also came to a point when I got tired of singing cover versions and wanted to do my own music."

Soon, word got around and Gabrielle was signed up. Commissioned to do her first song as fast as she could, she wrote all the tracks for "Find Your Way" in five months.

No idea

"I didn't know where it would bring me to. When 'Find Your Way' came out, I had no idea what would happen next. I was just pleased someone had allowed me to do an album with my name and my music on it," she says.

But "Find Your Way" was not just any album. It gave Gabrielle a string of hits ("Because Of You," "Going Nowhere") and a number one song that stayed up in the charts for a long time. For awhile, she reveled in the high it gave her, not knowing there was more to come.

"Suddenly, I had to be photographed—which I hated—and I was forced to meet a lot of people. I got a Brit Award and it was like "Wow." People began coming up to me to say, "I like your style." One man came up to me and walked away saying to his friends 'That was Prince.' It was so funny."

Gabrielle's music, a mix of Motown, the 80's sound and what they now call 'power pop,' obviously has a lot more staying power than just one album.

The moment she came out with her cover of "If You Ever" (done with East 17), people began to sense that here was an artist, not merely an "accident."

"Friends asked me, 'Why are you singing with a boy band?' and I'd tell them, 'Ah, but the song is good and they (East 17) are great.' I had fun doing that song because it was my first duet and the first time I did a video on location (in Spain)," Gabrielle recalls.

Leap

Her claim to musical immortality was further cemented upon the release of the highly-acclaimed "Rise." Inspired by the highs and lows of life and her role as mom to her son, it made the leap from just a hit-making move to serious songwriting.

"When my son arrived, the way I looked at the world changed and so did my songwriting. 'Sunshine' and 'Miracle' (both culled from 'Rise') were for him. I could've done an entire album that dwelt on the many emotions mothers go through, but you would have gotten sick of me!"

"Sunshine" was also a personal song that saw Gabrielle through a difficult time. "I saw everything from ground level. When you stop feeling sorry for yourself, that's when you recognize all the things you should be thankful for," she intones.

'Rise," the title track, can be described as autobiographical. Gabrielle reveals that she cried after its recording.

"It wasn't just a song. It was the summary of my life. It was my song, my pain and my triumph—of my 'rising' so to speak. When people tell me that it's their song, I feel glad. It means they celebrate with me and celebrate their lives, too."

Significance

Most of the songs in that album carry a similar significance. "After writing the songs that went into 'Rise,' I felt ready to take it to the next level because I was not as heavily into the emotion thing as before," she adds.

Another highlight in Gabrielle's career is her contribution to the"Bridget Jones Diary" soundtrack. "At first I felt strange writing for a film. But once I read the book, I felt I was Bridget. So in a way, I was still writing about myself." That song became one of Gabrielle's biggest hits, and gave her more popularity points with the US market.

As a culmination of all her achievements, she recently released a "Greatest Hits" package called "Dreams Come True Volume I" that sums up the transformations she has undergone. She also looks back to analyze the image she has fashioned for herself, unwittingly or not.

"I think your image is a natural progression. Look at your old pictures. Don't you go, 'Oh God, did I really look that way? And that dress!' Right now, my 'image' depends on my mood and my frame of mind. I'm not a slave to fashion or being glamorous. "

And the patch? "It doesn't matter. Did not, should not. It's the music that counts." As she creates more songs, Gabrielle continues to inspire many to believe that dreams *do* come true.

GABRIELLE. Staying power.

Ambrose's . . . (From page G2)

jumped much too low from planes that were flying much too fast," writes Ambrose. "They were carrying too much equipment and using an untested technique that turned out to be a major mistake."

His account of the terrifying chaos and confusion, of the heroic efforts of the soldiers who managed to make the landings a success, is breathtaking and so detailed that you feel as though you are actually there with them.

"On the morning of D-Day, in its first combat action, Easy captured and put out of action a German battery of four 105 mm cannon that were looking down on Utah Beach." Winters' superb leadership in this mission is inspiring.

One of the men says, "We fought as a team without standout stars. We were like a machine. We didn't have anyone who leaped up and charged a machine-gun . . .

No flashy heroics

"We were smart; there weren't many flashy heroics. We had learned that heroics was the way to get killed without getting the job done, and getting the job done was more important."

Winters called this moment his "apogee" and he was put in for the Congressional Medal of Honor. However, only one man per division could be given that medal and it went to another officer of the 101st. Winters received the Distinguished Service Cross and other officers and non-coms received silver and Bronze Stars.

Easy Company fought its way through Normandy, leading the charge into Carentan until they were relieved. They jumped into Normandy with 139 officers and men. The company was pulled out of the line with 74 officers and men. Their regiment suffered the heaviest casualties in that campaign, about 50 percent.

Ambrose's description of their fight in Normandy is nothing short of superb.

He proceeds to recount how they jumped into and fought in Holland, how they held the perimeter at Bastogne, "led the counteroffensive in the Battle of the Bulge, fought in the Rhineland campaign, and took Hitler's Eagle's Nest at Berchtesgaden."

Easy Company kept getting sent to the front line, they were given the most difficult missions and they acquitted themselves with courage and honor, despite taking 150 percent casualties!

Praises

Ambrose sings praises to their heroism, which we begrudge him not. He doesn't gush, he tells as it is, and he has the best sources anyone can have—the soldiers themselves.

"Band of Brothers" is obviously very well-researched. Ambrose interviewed almost every surviving member of Easy Company that he could get hold of, and he also made use of their war journals and letters. As a result, every word in the book rings true.

Crisp, spare, and still imbued with feeling despite the masculine prose, "Band of Brothers" is the farthest thing from a dry history or documentary.

After reading the book, we are left inspired by the heroism of these heroes who, appropriately enough, don't think of themselves as such. "In thinking back on the days of Easy Company," recounts one member, "I'm treasuring my remark to a grandson who asked, 'Grandpa, were you a hero in the war?'

'No,' I answered, 'but I served in a company of heroes.'"

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•Body Lotion

Body Concept
•Body Lotion •Soap
•Bath Gel •Scrub

Glycerine
Aromatherapy Soap

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• Body Lotion

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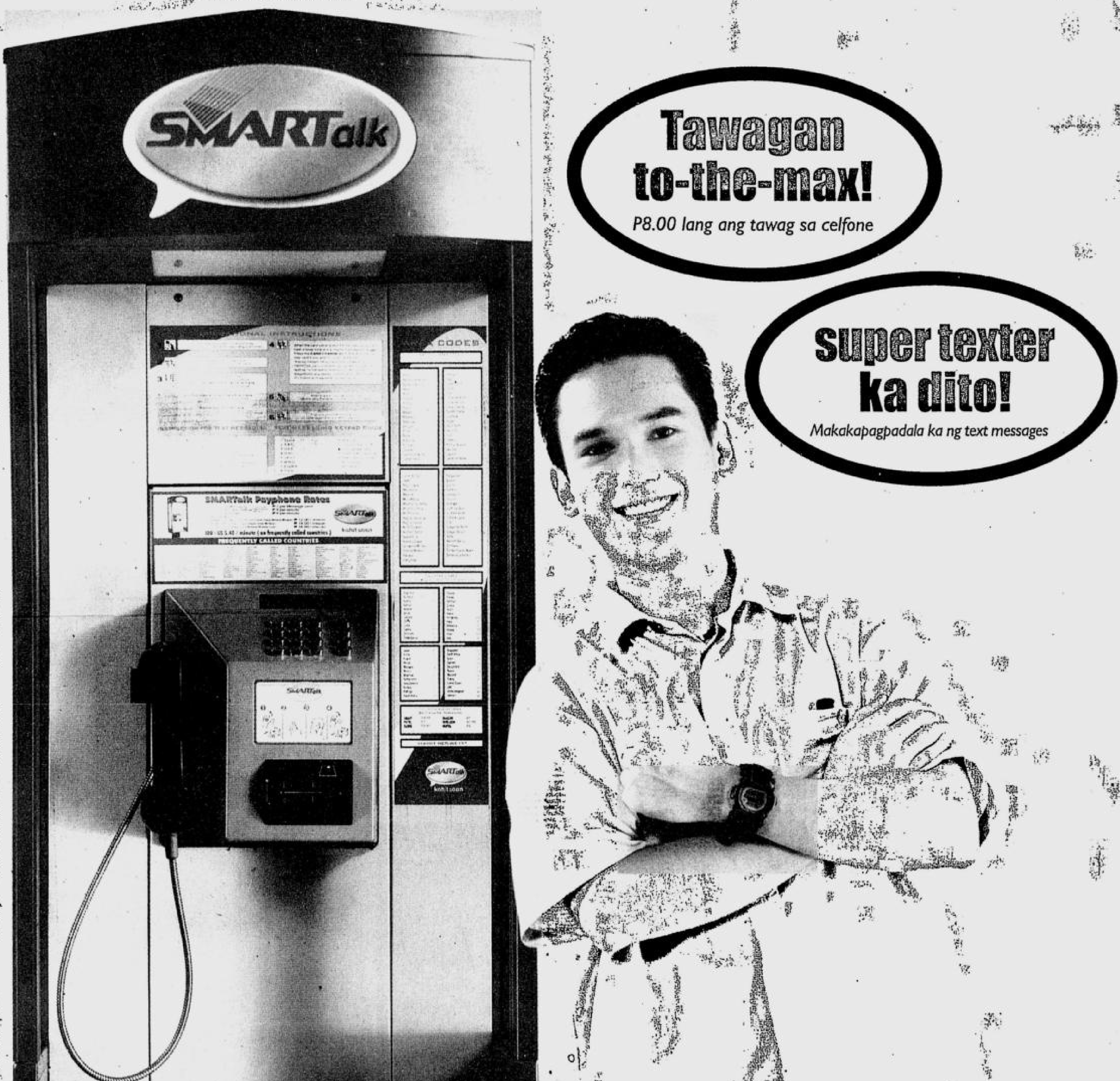
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Saturday S AL

Dawn Zulueta is a delightful eyeful on 'The Price Is Right'

By Nestor U. Torre

WHAT a pleasure—and relief—it is to see Dawn Zulueta back on TV again. Last Sunday, we saw her hosting "The Price Is Right" on ABC-5 (at 7 p.m.), and we were impressed with her crisp, cool way of putting the contestants on the show through their paces.

New elements

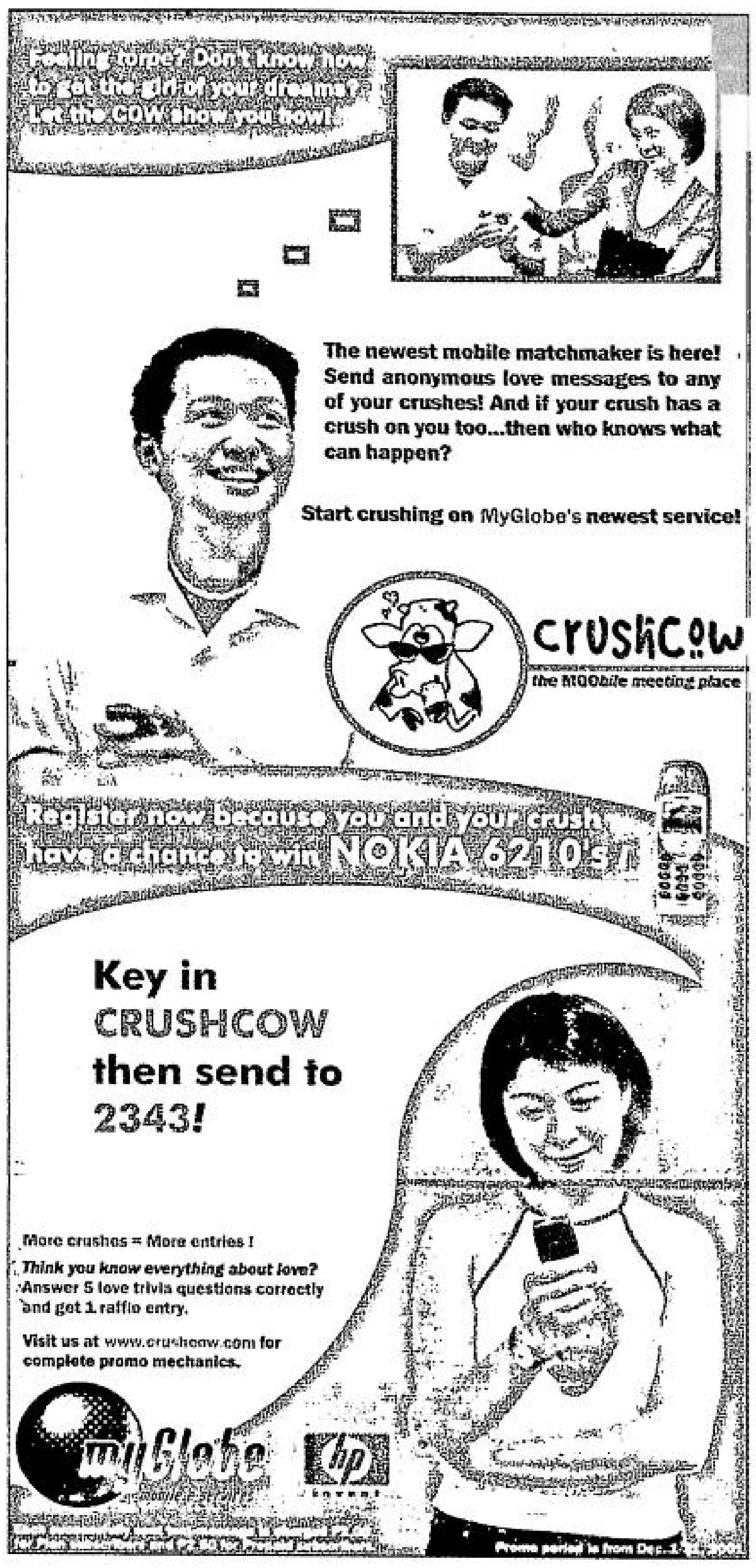
Since the original, American edition of "The Price Is Right" has been showing on local TV for years, if not decades, the only new elements in this latest repackaging of the program are Dawn and the Filipino language and flavor used and highlighted in the production.

The Filipino touches are welcome, since they give the new show an agreeably homegrown look that makes it accessible to local viewers.

But Dawn is still the show's biggest draw. Viewers are interested in seeing her because she's been away from the small and big screens for years—with the exception of a few guest appearances, like on Margie Moran-Floirendo's TV show about Mindanao (Dawn has been a resident of Davao City ever since she got married).

DAWN/p.H2

ZULUETA. Crisp, cool hosting style.



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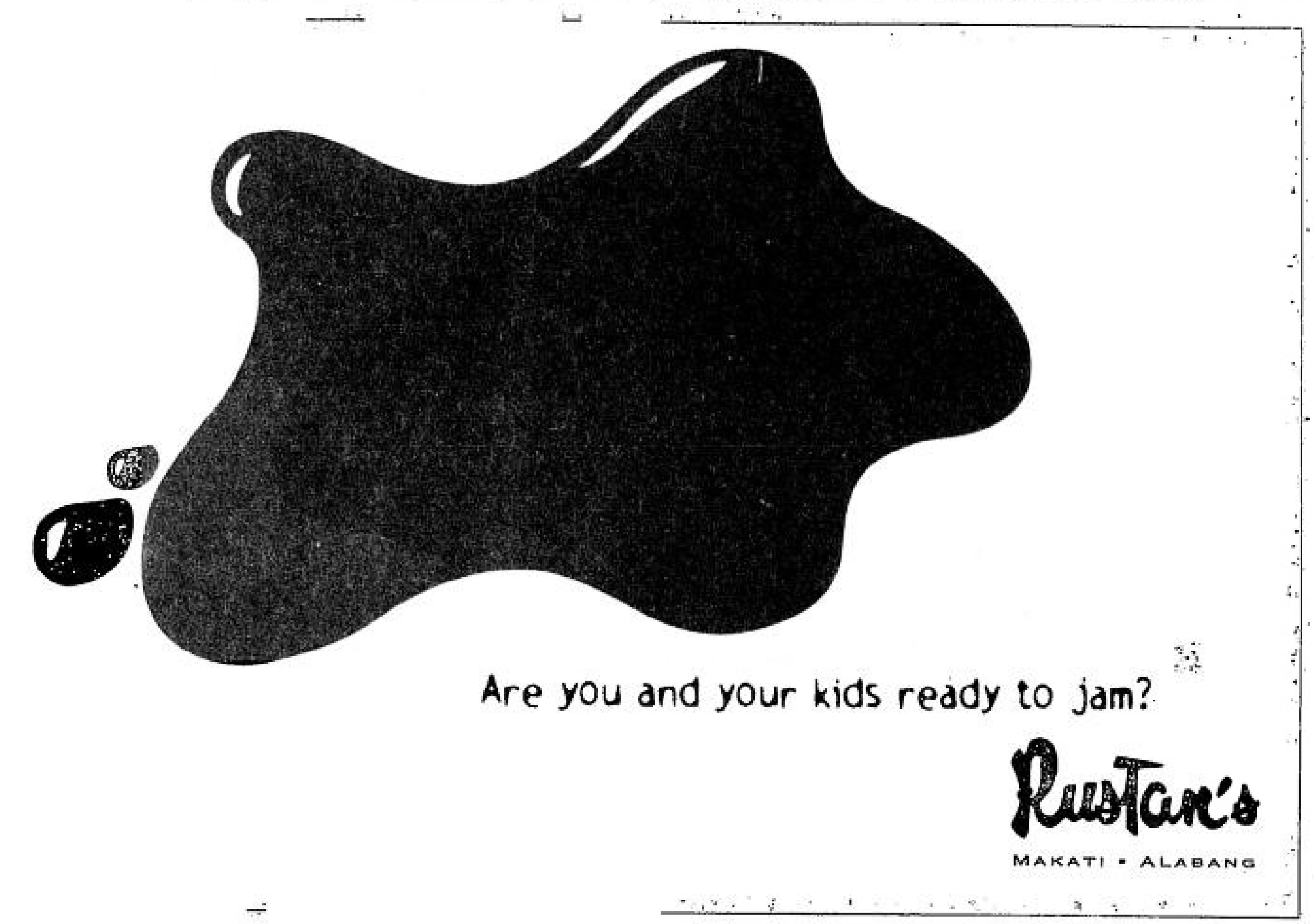

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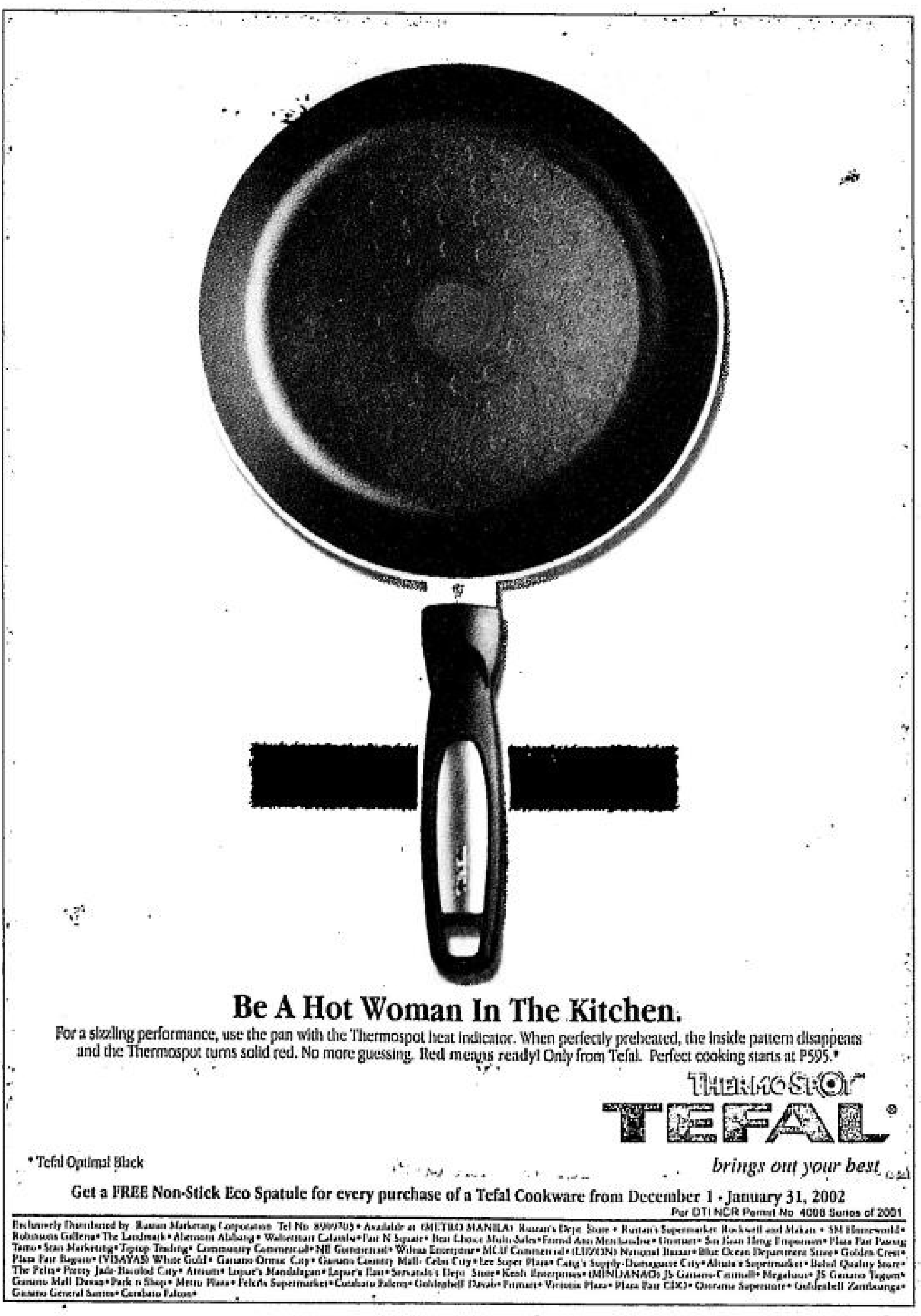

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Cinematic odyssey unreels at Cinemanila 2001

SCORES of acclaimed films await audiences at the ongoing 3rd Annual Cinemanila International Film Festival.

10-day festival

Presented by the City of Makati, Cinemanila 2001 will be held until Dec. 16, 2001 at the Glorietta and Greenbelt Cinemas at Ayala Center.

Belgium, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Netherlands and Norway are among the European countries with films in the 10-day festival while the best of contemporary Asian cinema is represented by entries from South Korea, Thailand, Iran, Turkey, Sri-Lanka, Japan, Hong Kong, Malaysia and Singapore. Other films include those from New Zealand, Canada, Mexico and the United States. The festival line-up includes:

—From the Czech Republic, Jan Hrebejk's "Divided We Fall"—an Oscar nominee this year for Best Foreign Language Film. It tells the story of a childless couple in a small Czech town occupied by German forces towards the end of the Second World War. They have to protect their vicinity from possible Nazi reprisal as they offer refuge to a young Jewish man who has escaped from a concentration camp. When the wife refuses the sexual advances of the neighborhood collaborator, the latter plans revenge by scheming to move a Nazi clerk to the vacant room of the couple's house. The sterile husband has no choice but to ask the Jewish refugee in hiding to impregnate his spouse so that he can say that they would soon need the extra space of their abode for their firstborn.

Solution

—Jan Svankmajer's "Greedy Guts"—another Czech film—a fairy-tale-cum-black comedy about a barren woman who stumbles on a solution to her and her husband's malaise upon unearthing a tree stump resembling a young baby. An update of a popular Czech children's fable, "Greedy Guts" is believed to be leading Czech surrealist Svankmajer's best feature.

—Pal Jackman's "Detector," the lone Norwegian entry, about a young psychologist who has to deal with a strange mix of patients in varying degrees of confusion.

—"The Price of Milk" from New Zealand director Harry Sinclair and producer Fiona Copland, whose previous collaboration in 1997, "Topless Women Talk About Their Lives," swept New Zealand's pool of awards and has been screened in 37 countries around the world. "The Price of Milk" stars Danielle Cormack in the role of a dairy farm maiden whose engagement with a milkman is headed for trouble.

Gruesome death

—From Canada, Robert Lepage's "Possible Worlds"—an unconventional whodunit revolving around a pair of detectives on the trail of a killer behind the gruesome death of a man whose brain is removed from the corpse. "Possible Worlds" explores the nature of humans as the only species on earth.

A rundown of films from the United States reveals a number of indie gems like Abe Lim's "Roads and Bridges"—a modern spin on the old Western tale set in Middle America and centering on the joint odyssey of a young and rebellious Asian-American and an African-American family man. Lim has edited some of the movies of acclaimed maverick filmmaker Robert Altman. His graduate thesis film, "Fly," impressed the director so much that the Altman eventually offered his full services as executive producer for "Roads and Bridges." The film was made over the course of five years on a stop-and-go schedule with a skeleton crew.

Other features

Other featured films: Belgium: Gerard Corbiau's "The King Is Dancing," Danis Tanovic's "No Man's Land," Raoul Peck's "Lumumba," Pierre-Paul Renders' "Thomas in Love," Marion Hansels's "Clouds;"

France: Francois Ozon's "Under the Sand," Claire Denis' "Good Work," Jean-Pierre Melville's "Bob the Gambler," Luis Bunuel's "The Phantom of Liberty," Alain Resnais' "Hiroshima, Mon Amour;"

TIKOY Aguiluz, festival organizer.

Germany—"Erotic Tales I-IV," Mirjam Kubescha's "Ecce Homo;" Hong Kong—Evans Chan's "The Map of Sex and Love;" Iran—Iraj Karimi's "Going By," Maziar Miri's "Unfinished Song;" Israel-Dan Wolman's "Foreign Sister;" Japan—John Williams' Firefly Dreams;"

Malaysia—Teck Tan's "Spinning Gasing;" Mexico—Slavador Aguirre's "To and Fro," Arturo Ripstein's "Divine;" Netherlands—Jos Stellings "No Trains, No Planes;" Poland-Krzystof Zanussi's "The Year of the Quiet Sun;"

Singapore—Djinn's "Return to Pontianak," Daisy Chan's "The Tree;" South Korea—Im Kwon-taek's "Chunhyang," Kim Ji Woon's "The Foul King," Kim Ki-duk's "The Isle," Kim Sang-jin's "Attack the Gas Station," Bong JoonHo's "Barking Dogs Never Bite;" Sri Lanka-Asoka Handagama's "This is My Moon;"

Thailand—Oxide and Danny Pang's "Bangkok Dangerous," Wisit Sartsanatieng's "Tears of the Black Tiger," Nonzee Nimibutr's "Jan Dara," "Nang Nak" and "Dang Birely and the Young Gangsters;"

Turkey—Nuri Bilge Ceylan's "Clouds of May" and "The Snall Town;" USA—Francisco Aliwalas' "Disoriented," David Maquiling's "Too Much Sleep," Jesus Nebot and Julia Montejo's "No Turning Back."

Dawn Zulueta is a delightful eyeful on 'The Price Is Right'

(From page H1)

Price-guessing portions

Dawn gives her loyal fans a delightful eyeful on her TV comeback. Dressed informally but impeccably, she breezes through the game show's various price-guessing portions.

"The Price Is Right" can get to be a drag because of its ultra-materialistic bent, but Dawn's classy projection and handling makes the local version easier to take than Bob Barker's old, "carnival-sideshow barker" original.

We wish, though, that Dawn can be persuaded to take on another regular weekly TV show that would make even better use of her beauty and hosting ability. A late-night celebrity talk show would be just the ticket for her, specially now that she's becaome her own person and is more confident about herself and her opinions.

Meanwhile, we'll have to content ourselves with seeing her on "The Price Is Right," where she's quietly setting a new standard for hosts of quiz and game shows on the local TV scene.

Mininal stress

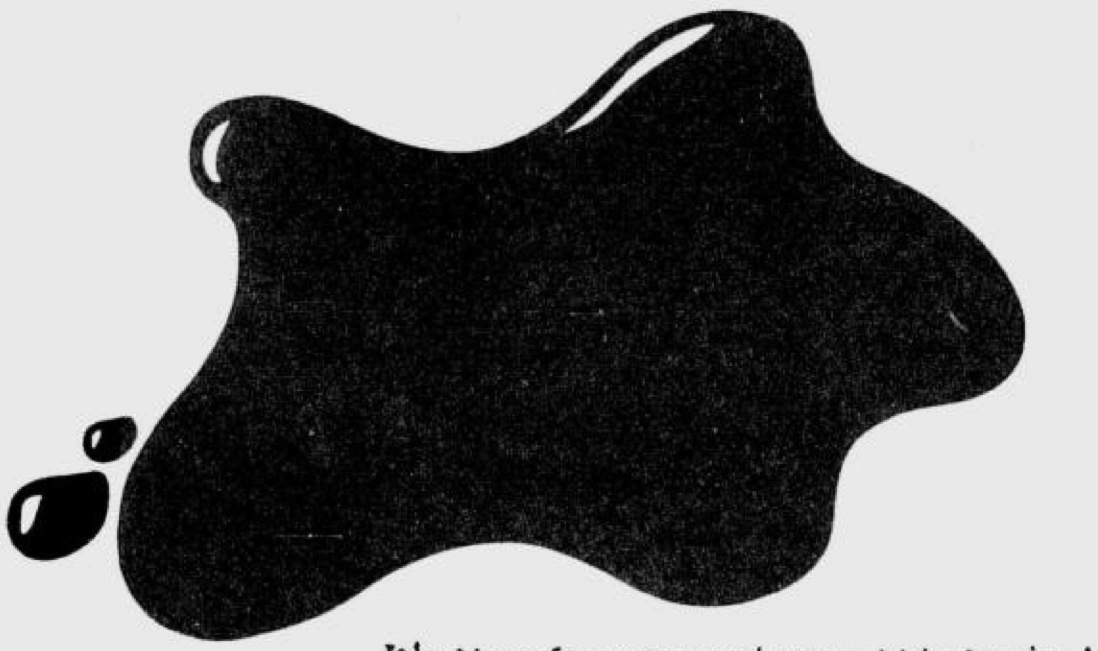
Dawn has the ability to generate excitement without shouting. She has taken pains to master the rules and game procedures of her program, so she can coolly guide contestants through the steps they need to follow in order to win prizes with minimal stress and hassles.

Her quiet confidence and verve help contestants focus on the task at hand. Where some other quizmasters or game-show hosts rattle contestants by making so much "drama" and giving vent to *pa*-suspense histrionics, Dawn doesn't even have to resort to such self-serving tics and shticks to keep her show's interest value at a high level.

TV comeback

ABC-5's prime movers should be complimented for getting Dawn to agree to make her TV comeback with them. Her success on "The Price Is Right" has prompted us to look around for other semi-retired stars who still have a lot to offer on the big and small screens.

What about whipping up comeback shows with different formats for the likes of Mikee Cojuangco, Carmi Martin, Cynthia Patag, Emma Yuhico, Tetchie Agbayani and Cherie Gil? They would certainly light up the TV screen with the incandescence of their talent and charisma. Now that Dawn Zulueta has shown the way, many deserving others can follow.



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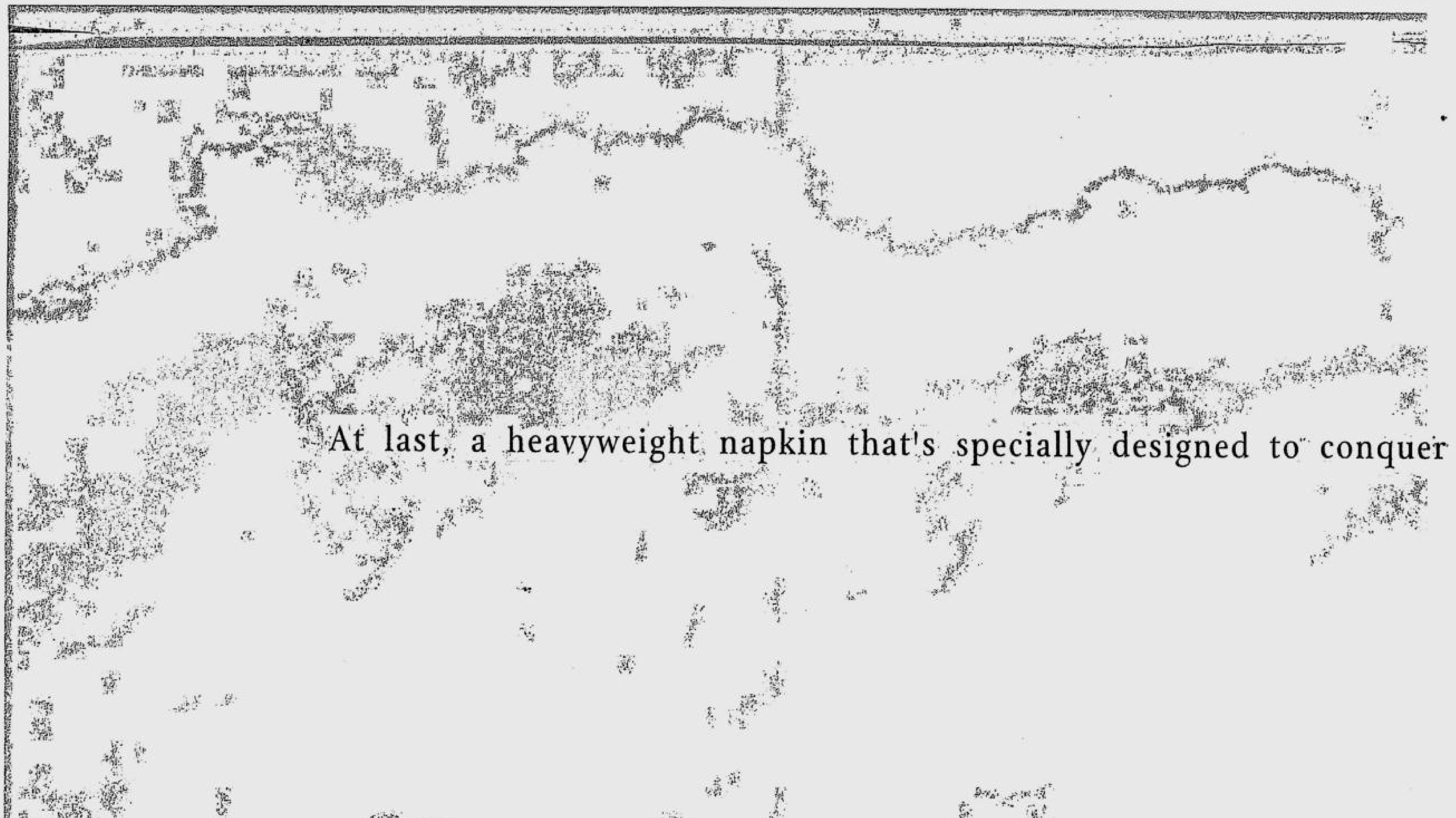

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New career moves for Bobby Andrews

By Remy M. Umerez

DID you know that actor Bobby Andrews had only one year of studies left before becoming a full-fledged dentist? He quit and shifted to acting instead. No regrets, though, because all those four years of college at CEU were a learning experience that has never been put to waste. But Bobby isn't planning to resume his studies, because acting is all that matters to him now.

As a romantic tandem, he and Angelu de Leon appeared in five movies, with "Ang Lahat ng Ito Para sa Yo" signaling the end of their screen partnership. Looking back, Bobby thought it was the end of his movie career.

Dependent

"I became so dependent on our love team, thinking it would survive all odds. When it ended, I was caught unaware. *Talagang ipinagluksa ko ito* and I stayed out of circulation for a year. Little did I know that Viva management had other plans for my career," he recalls.

At that time, some major stars reshaped their careers by accepting *contravida* roles, while still maintaining the top billing they were accustomed to. Bobby had his first taste of anti-hero roles in "Katawan." He agreed to be the rapist of Rosanna Roces, who played a ghost in the story. It was also Bobby's first bold movie.

The lanky actor expresses his gratitude to Viva for always being there and making him a priority whenever a project is hatched. When movie assignments were scarce, he found himself doing a series, "Subic," courtesy of Viva TV, or making guest appearances on some drama shows.

Memorable

One role he found memorable was that of a cancer victim in an episode of "Maalaala Mo Kaya." The role made him feel depressed for one week. "There are roles *kasi na mahirap tanggalin agad, na kahit sa bahay ay dala-dala ko pa rin*," he muses.

With the year coming to an end, Bobby finds himself busy with a new *teleserye* for GMA, "Sana Ay Ikaw Na Nga." He returns to Angelu's arms—and at the same time exacts vengeance on her!

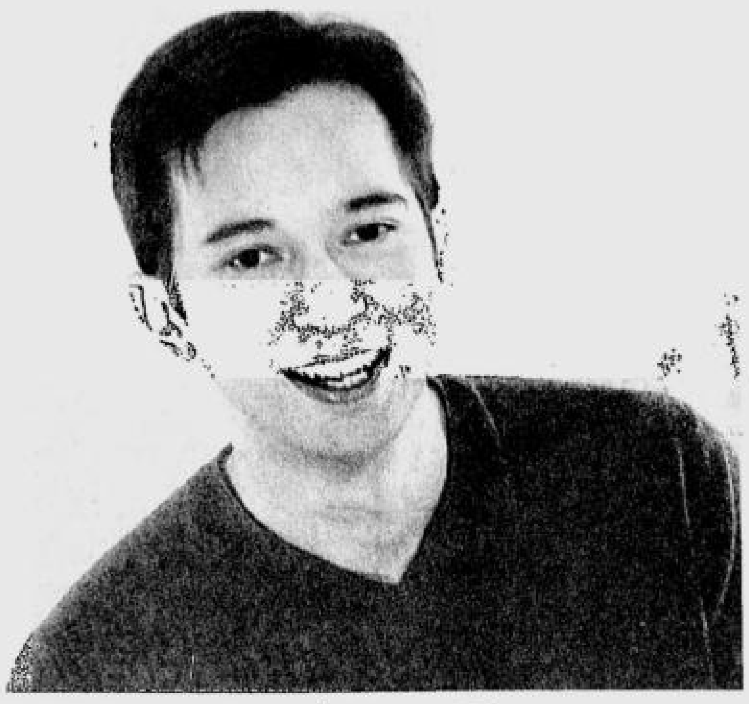
"This much I can say about my role: We used to be lovers until she married a wealthy man. We are both married when our paths cross again, and my mission is not just to get even but also to avenge the death of a brother (Red Sternberg)," Bobby informs us.

The series, which airs every weekday at 7 p.m., boast of a star-studded cast, from the new love team of Dingdong Dantes and Tanya Gomez, to Wendell Ramos, Kevin Vernal, Tirso Cruz III, Elizabeth Oropesa and Jacklyn Jose.

Bobby never had any real kissing scene with Angelu when they were still a love team. In "Sana Ikaw Na Nga," some situations call for passionate kisses.

Were they nervous while doing those love scenes?

Different camera angles



ANDREWS. Reunited with Angelu de Leon on TV.

> 'I became so dependent on our love team. When it ended, I was caught unaware'

"One of the things I learned in an acting workshop is to leave yourself behind and get into your character. When the scene was shot, it was not Angelu I was romancing but the character of Consuelo, whom I loved more than my life. To get different camera angles, we even shot the scene twice," he explains.

Bobby who is happily married and a father of two, ends the year with a movie, "Susmaryosep (4 Fathers)," that's a possible entry to the Metro Manila Film Festival.

In the story, he plays Father Ep. He serves the Lord and his community thinking that his father will be healed by God because he has chosen to serve and sacrifice for Him. His life takes a 360-degree turn when his former girlfriend arrives and leaves in his care an impish boy who turns out to be his son.

The cast of "Susmaryosep" includes Bojo Molina, Polo Ravales and Gerald Madrid—all products of Catholic schools run by priests.

'Tiktipaklong' at Sta. Ana Arts Center

VELOSO. Directs new production of popular children's musical.

THE MOBILE Theater Foundation (Manila) Inc., in cooperation with Tanghalang Santa Ana, presents the initial staging of "Tiktipaklong," a musical written by award-winning playwright Rene O. Villanueva.

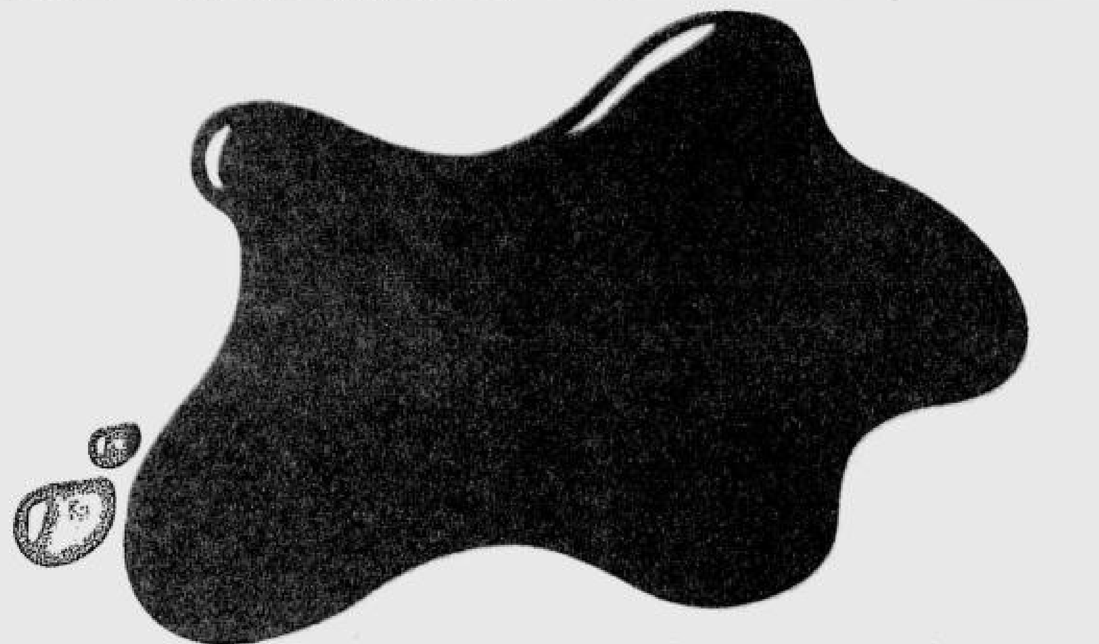
Tanghalang Sta. Ana of the Sta. Ana Arts Center is Manila's first community indoor theater, for the 6th District of Manila. "Tiktipaklong" was originally commissioned by the Gantimpala Theater Foundation in the mid-'80s.

Young grasshopper

The original Filipino children's musical tells the story of a young grasshopper (Tiktipaklong) who is tasked by his mother to look for food for the family but is tempted to play since it is the first day of summer. The musical is directed by Councilor Lou Veloso.

Performance dates are Dec. 12 and 14 with matinees shows at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Tickets are priced at P50 and may be secured at the Sta. Ana Arts Center, Plaza Calderon corner Suter sts., Sta. Ana, Manila; and at Room 236, Manila City Hall.

Some shows will be offered free to students of public elementary schools in the 6th district of Manila, consisting of Sta. Ana, Pandacan, Punta, and Sta Mesa . Call 562-7094 or 4925.



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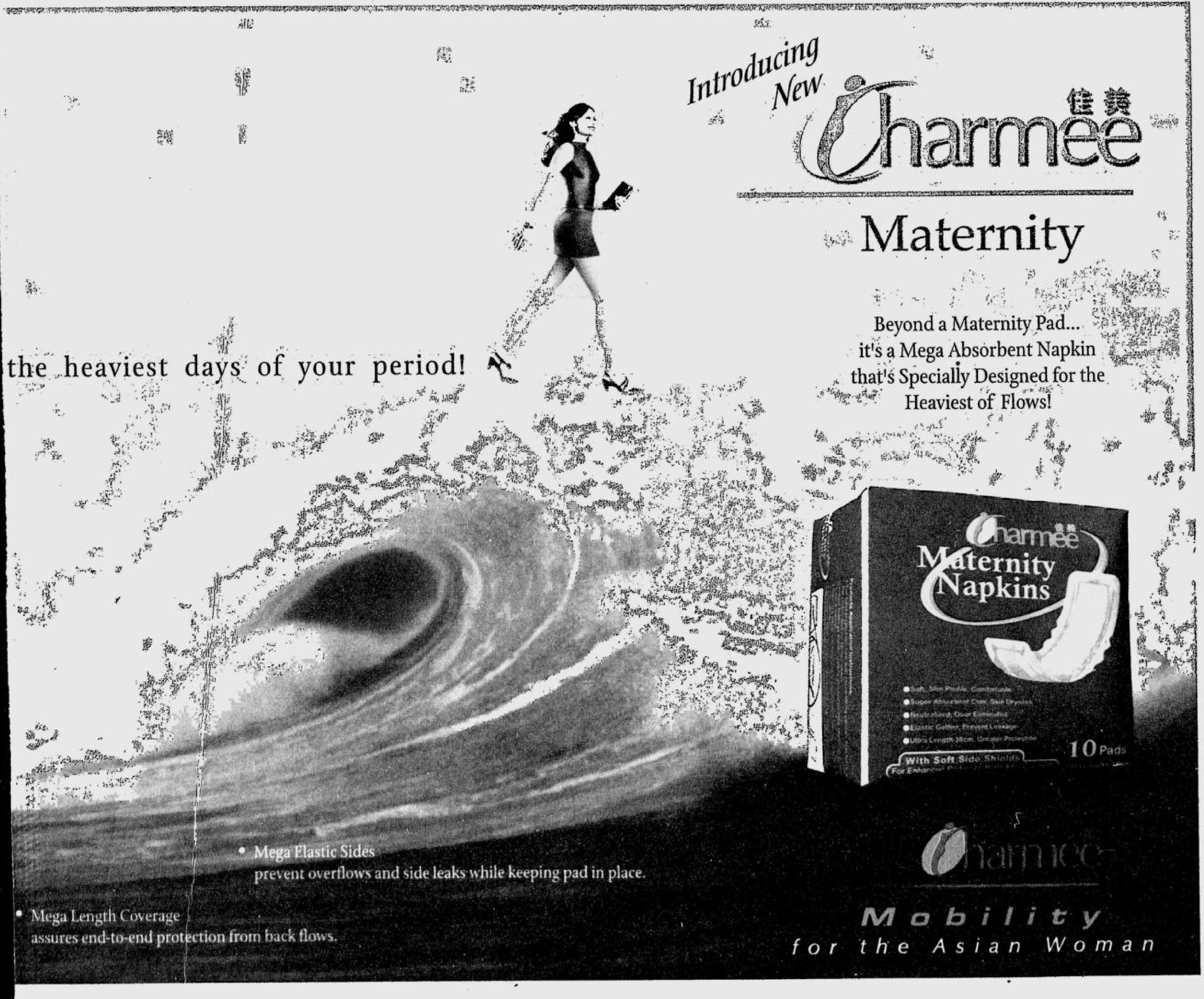

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   - One (1) back label of HDP Deo Roll-on Active Plus
   - One (1) back label of Heno de Pravia Agua de Colonia

   On the empty pack, print your name, address, phone numbers and signature.
3. If you're sending a back label, stick it at the back of the photo. Write your name, address, phone numbers, and signature on a separate piece of paper.
   Mail entries to:

HENO DE PRAVIA
Search for Image Models 3
P.O. Box 19400 San Juan, MM

Lucky Searchers can win P30,000 worth of prizes.

1. Attach 1 close-up (3R, most recent) photo of your Image Model to any of the above-mentioned proofs of purchase.
2. At the back of the photo, print the name of your Image Model candidate. On the empty pack, print your name, address, phone nos. and signature. Mail entries to the address above.

Lucky Senders can win up to P60,000.

1. Lucky Senders are entries without photos attached, and are eligible only for the 3 bimonthly draws of P20,000 each. Write your name, address, phone nos., and signature on any of the above-mentioned HDP proofs of purchase. Mail entries to the same address.
2. Non-winning Image Model and Lucky Searcher entries are also qualified for the draws. So send as many entries as you can!

* *Entries must be received at least 5 days before the screening/draw dates: (1st) Jan. 16, 2002; (2nd) Mar. 18, 2002; (3rd) May 16, 2002*

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Pre-screening for qualifiers:
All entries received will be screened by client, agency, and DTI rep. every 2 mos. The bimonthly Lucky Sender winner will be drawn from the Lucky Sender and non-winning Image Model/ Lucky Searcher entries.

Criteria for pre-screening:
Photogenic quality and image projection - 50%
Beauty (*For males: Appeal*) - 50%
Must possess a beautiful (or handsome) face with clear complexion.

Selection of Finalists:
Only 10 final candidates (5 males, 5 females) who meet the cut-off score of 85% will be chosen for the final judging.

Final Image Model candidates and their Lucky Searchers (if any) will be notified by registered mail. They must confirm their participation on or before May 24, 2002.

The Lucky Searchers will have to show their registered mail and present a valid ID on the screening date.

Final Screening:
The 10 official candidates will undergo VTR and photo sessions on May 31, 2002 at Horizon Edsa Hotel. Judges will determine the official HDP Image Models.

Criteria for final screening:
Personality - 50%
Beauty (Appeal for Males) - 40%
Talent - 10%

Announcement of Winners:
Awarding of Image Model/ Lucky Searcher winners will be on June 1, 2002 in one of Manila's prestigious malls.

Prizes:
Image Models: each receives P100,000 in cash *plus P10,000 worth of local & imported Gal products.*
Lucky Searchers (if any): each receives P20,000 in cash *plus P10,000 worth of local & imported Gal products.*
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PER DTI-NCR PERMIT NO. 1721, SERIES OF 2001

THE MEMBERS of CAST 2002: (from left), Neil Dustin Reyes, Jay Paragas, Vikram Saddi, Marian Garcia, Nicole Yabut and Jocelyn Hao.

Winners of ABS-CBN's 'CAST' teen model search announced

SIX exemplary male and female teens have been selected as winners in Props' Search for the CAST of 2002. At the Rockwell Tent recently, six teens were chosen out of 12 finalists to make up the first-ever Circle of Achievers and Spirited Teens (CAST).

Spokespersons

The group will serve as image models and sporkespersons for ABS-CBN's apparel brand Props and serve as honorary correspondents for Chalk Magazine.

The winning circle is made up of Vik Saddi of the University of Santo Tomas, Dustin Reyes of Ateneo de Manila University, Jay Paragas of McGill University, Canada, Nicole Yabut of Assumption College, Marian Gracia of De La Salle University, and Jocelyn Hao of Ateneo de Manila University.

The finals night was the culmination of a series of screenings held at the ABS-CBN Broadcasting Complex, including various pre-finals night activities done in partnership with other ABS-CBN Subsidiaries.

'Gifts of Grace' launched

A NEW book featuring a collection of moving, inspiring and humorous essays about the blessings of life was recently launched by OMF Literature Inc.

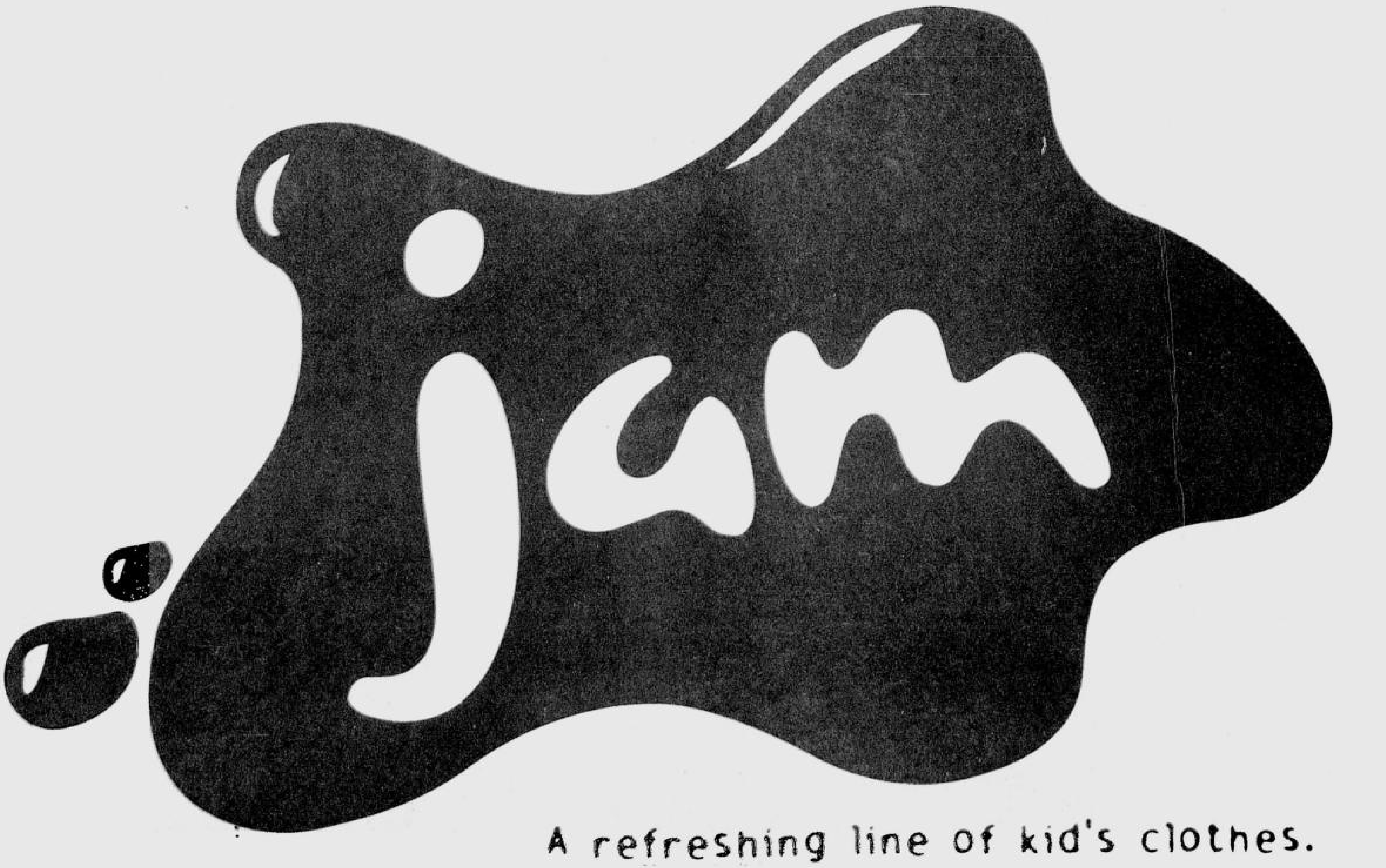
"Gifts of Grace," written by two-time Carlos Palanca Award winner Grace D. Chong, is about the author's encounters with 15 individuals who have left lasting imprints on her life and have inspired her even in her early years as a student in Chicago, USA.

The characters are real people easy to identify with, and readers will find the anecdotes heartwarming.

Chong, who has written three other books including her award-winning "The Magic of Apo Mayor," collaborated with artist Ggie Bernabe, who designed the cover and art-directed the book.

CHONG AND BERNABE. Author and designer-art director, respectively.

A special edition of the hard-bound book is now available in bookstores at popular prices.



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PsychologyAB and BS
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Nemesio S. Que, S.J., Director

In school year 2001-2002, approximately 14% of the total student population are on scholarships from the Ateneo, the government, and private agencies.

International Linkages

Antonette Palma-Angeles, Director

International Linkages in 2000-2001: Asia, Australia & the Pacific; Europe, United States & Canada; the European Studies Consortium, the Asia Europe Foundation, Consortium for Ibero-American Studies, ASEACCU, IFCU, ACUCA

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Religious and Ecclesiastical Studies
Pastoral Ministry
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The Rizal Library

is an electronic library that offers users automated systems and on-line services. It contains outstanding holdings such as: the memorabilia of Jos Rizal; the American Historical Collection (1898—1945); photographs rich in Philippine history; Filipiniana rare books; and the Pardo de Tavera Collection

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Alfredo R.A. Bengzon, Dean

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MBA—Middle Manager Program
Ateneo-Regis MBA Program
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Master of Science in Information Technology
Master of Science in Information Management

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Jaime V. Ongpin Executive Education Program

Ateneo Library for Womens Writings

an archival facility within the Rizal Library whose objective is to preserve and disseminate the works of Filipino women writers in English and the vernacular. Some of the significant collections include works of Lina Flor, Angela Manalang-Gloria, Liwayway Arceo, and Lina Espina Moore.

These buildings are the bodies
for our aspirations;
we shaped them and now
they are shaping us

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The Ateneo de Manila University Press

publisher of scholarly books, including Rafael Iletos *Pasyon and Revolution;* William Henry Scotts *Barangay;* Bienvenido Lumberas *Tagalog Poetry 1570—1898;* Virginia Benitez Licuanans *Paz Marquez Benitez: One Womans Life, Letters, and Writings.*

The Office of Research & Publications

translation and publication of Francisco Blancas de San Jose (d.1614), *Sermones;* Fray Juan de Oliver, O.F.M (d. 1599, *Declaracion de la doctrina christiana en idioma*, Francisco de San Antonio (d.1642), *Vocabulario Tagalo: Tagalog Spanish Dictionary.*

The Manila Observatory

houses the Climate Change Information Center, an institution that provides access data and information on climate change research, mitigation and adaptation strategies, climate friendly technologies and policy issues on behalf of the Inter-Agency Committee on Climate Change of the Government of the Philippines and its participating agencies.

The Ateneo Art Gallery

was established in 1960 to showcase the art bequest made to the University by the late painter and art scholar Fernando Zobel de Ayala (1924-1984). Widely recognized today as the countrys first museum of modern art, some of the finest examples of postwar Philippine painting and sculpture can be found hererare early works by H. R. Ocampo, Manansala, Luz, Legaspi, Magsaysay-Ho, Abueva, Joya, and Ang Kiukok. The Gallery also hosts a distinguished trove of original fine prints and drawings by local and international masters: Sanso, Rodriguez, Picasso, Rembrandt, Goya, Manet, Toulouse-Lautrec, Dali and Miro. All these make the Gallerys art holdings one of the finest in the Asia-Pacific region.

Office for Mission & Identity and Organizational Development

is a pioneering effort of the Ateneo de Manila to ensure that its programs, structures, culture, and policies are rooted in the spirituality and apostolic vision and mission of the Society of Jesus, even as it responds to challenges and demands of our times. Through workshops, publications and organizational development efforts, OMIOD seeks to make the Catholic, Ignatian values that define the Ateneo become fully alive in its community.

Institutes

East Asian Pastoral Institute
Human Resources Center
Institute on Church and Social Issues
Institute of Philippine Culture
Institute of Social Order

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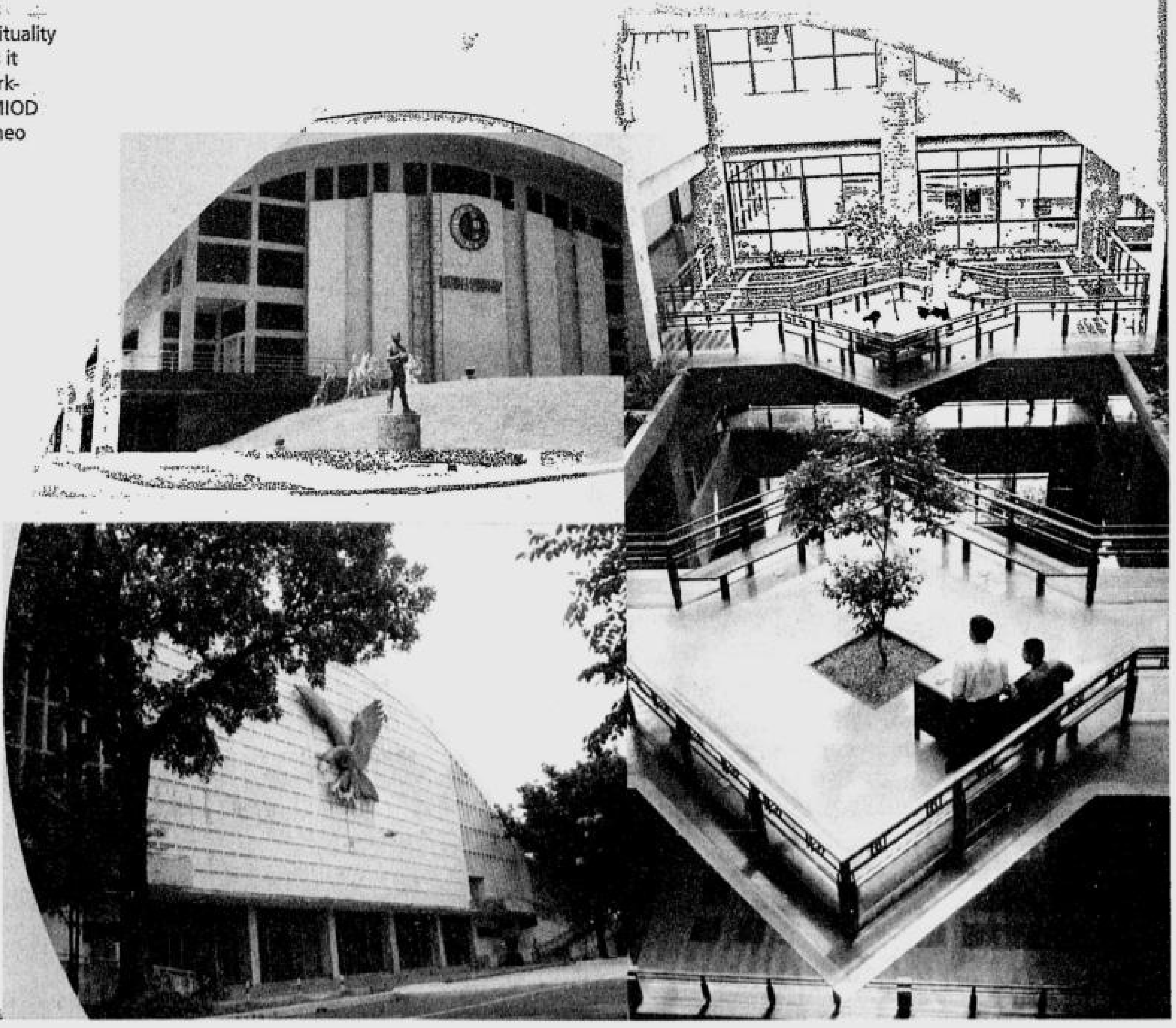


The Year 2001 Commencement and Special Convocation Awards

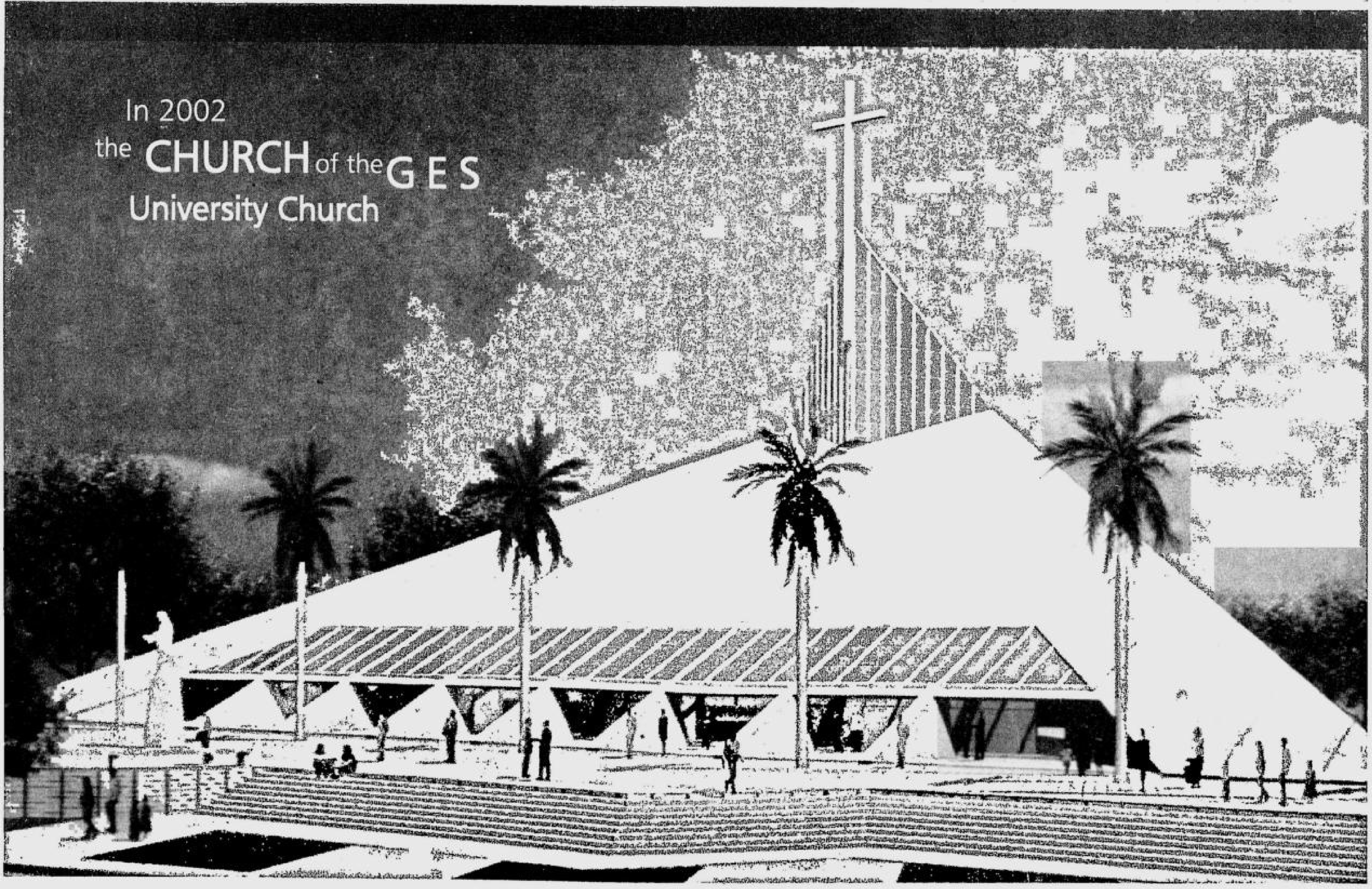
Honorary Doctorate: Hilario G. Davide, Jr.
Honorary Doctorate: Dom Bernardo Ma. Perez, O.S.B.
Lux in Domino: Juan C. Tan
Lux in Domino: Dr. Manuel Chua-Chiaco and Dr. Enrique T. Novales
Tanglaw ng Lahi: Don Carlos Palanca Memorial Awards for Literature
Ozanam: Rosemarie M. Cabrera
Government Service: Tomas P. Africa
Bukas Palad: Rhoel Gallardo, CMF; Francis Chapman, MSSC; Michel de Gigord, MEP
Public Service: Tabang Mindanao; The Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism

Recent Faculty and Student Awards (selected)

Bienvenido F. Nebres, S.J., President, Ateneo de Manila University, National Order of Merit, with the Rank of Officer, of the French Republic (Officier dans lOrdre National du Mrite), 2001
Queena N. Lee-Chua, one of the Ten Outstanding Women in the Nations Service, 2001
Ricardo G. Abad, one of the 2001 Metrobank Foundation Outstanding Teachers of the Philippines
John Paul C. Vergara, one of the 2001 Outstanding Young Scientists, the National Academy of Science and Technology
Modesto T. Chua, 2001 Outstanding Chemist, the Professional Regulation Commission
Doreen G. Fernandez, CCP Centennial Awards for the Arts for cultural research, 1999
Rene B. Javellana, S.J., Manila Critics Circle 2001 National Book Award for Childrens Literature for his book *Cinco de Noviembre*
Soledad S. Reyes, Manila Critics Circle 2001 National Book Award for Editing for her book *Lina Flor: Collected Works*
Fernando N. Zialcita, Manila Critics Circle 2001 National Book Award for Social Sciences for his book *Cuaresma*
Alfred A. Yuson (poetry), **Mary Grace C. Panganiban** (essay), **John B. Labella** (poetry), **Michael M. Coroza** (poetry), **Queena Lee-Chua** (essay), **Glenda C. Oris** (childrens short story): 2001 Carlos Palanca Memorial Awards for Literature
Ho Sung C. Lee, the 2000—2001 Deans Medallion, Outstanding MS graduate of the Computer Science Graduate Program of the University of the Philippines
Sandra-Jean Chua, Michael Tonido, Goodwealth Chu, Christian Jacinto, First Place, HP Techquiz 2000, Asian Regional Finals
Ena Liza R. Ang, Amado Gabriel R. Lacuesta, Daniel T. Lim, Jr., Tiana V. Yu, First Place, Inter-Collegiate Finance Contest, 2000
Eduardo Ambrosio Vicente Paulo P. Canivel, Anna Katrina E. Hernandez, Julie Anne M. Hudtohan, Daniel Antonio Roberto G. Tirol, Aisa Mae G. Yap, First Place, Philippine Association of National Advertisers Marketing Communications Competition, 2000
Ryan John L. Castillo, Roland Joseph D. Canimo, Florentino D. Dulce, Jr., Anna Katrina M. Varilla, Zorayda D. Zordilla, First Prize, e-Business Plan Competition, Management Association of the Philippines, 2001
The Ateneo de Manila College Glee Club, First Prize, Mixed Choir Category; Third Prize, Male Choir Category and Gustave Charlier Preis for the best interpretation of a Religious Choral Work, and Best Male Category, 7th International Chamber-Choir Competitions in Marktoberdorf, Germany, 2001
Roberto Benedicto, Madeleine Y. Dy, and **William Panlilio**, Grand Champions in the English as a Second Language Category of the 27th Australasian Debate Championships, Singapore, 2001
Vincent M. Varilla, top honors, top of the class distinctions, Asia-Europe Programme of LInstitut dEtudes Politiques de Paris, 2001
Jaime Anne Li Han, Patrick Philip Lim, Sam Christopher Lim, gold medalists, Inter-school Statistics Competition, the UP Statistical Society, 2000
Ateneo Mens Basketball Team, 2nd place, 63rd UAAP Tournament, 2001
Ateneo Mens Lawn Tennis Team, Champion, 63rd UAAP Lawn Tennis Tournament, 2001; University Games—Bacolod, 2001
Cheryl G. Uynicky, 2001 Ten Outstanding Students of the Philippines
Roselle R. Ambubuyog, 2000 Jose Rizal Model Student of the Philippines

A T E N E O D E M A N

A return
to SPIRITUAL
ROOTS
empowers us to deal
with the FUTURE



Galing naman!

Junior Inquirer

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2001 ✦ 12 PAGES ✦ VOLUME 5, NUMBER 61

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WHAT'S INSIDE:

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Atom Araullo's Writing Adventures Page 9
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Big Cera's

CREATORS

BY ELINE SANTOS

DREAMING of writing your own book someday?

Twenty-one nursery kids made their very own book and it won first prize in Xavier School's 1999 book fair.

"We didn't even know there was (going to be) an award," said 7-year-old Bart Ongkauko, one of the original co-creators of Our Pet Dinosaur.

Expected or not, the labor pains of twenty-one creative young minds gave birth to Cera, a blue pet dinosaur as big as a house! She's a triceratops who sits and curls in the garage because of her enormous size.

Resident class artist Matthew Tan "had a difficult time drawing the cover because he had to make it big," related Ms Isabel Saplala, the boys' nursery class adviser who oversaw the making of the book two years ago.

Matthew copied a picture of a triceratops from an encyclopedia for the book's cover. "He really likes to draw," said his

Big/p.12

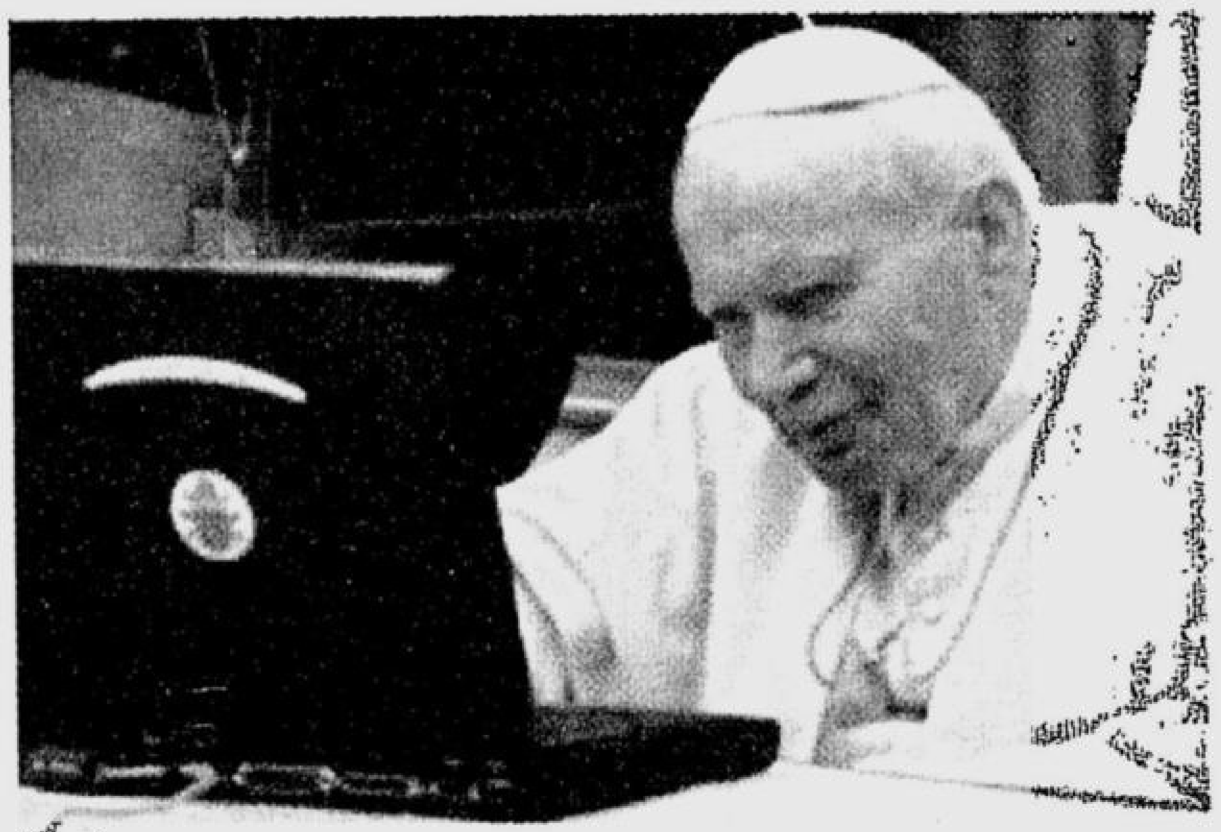
TEACHER Isabel Saplala is reunited with four young authors (from left) Joshua Co, Bart Ongkaiko, Matthew Tan and Gabe Peñalosa.

MIKEALQUINTO

WORLD SCOPE

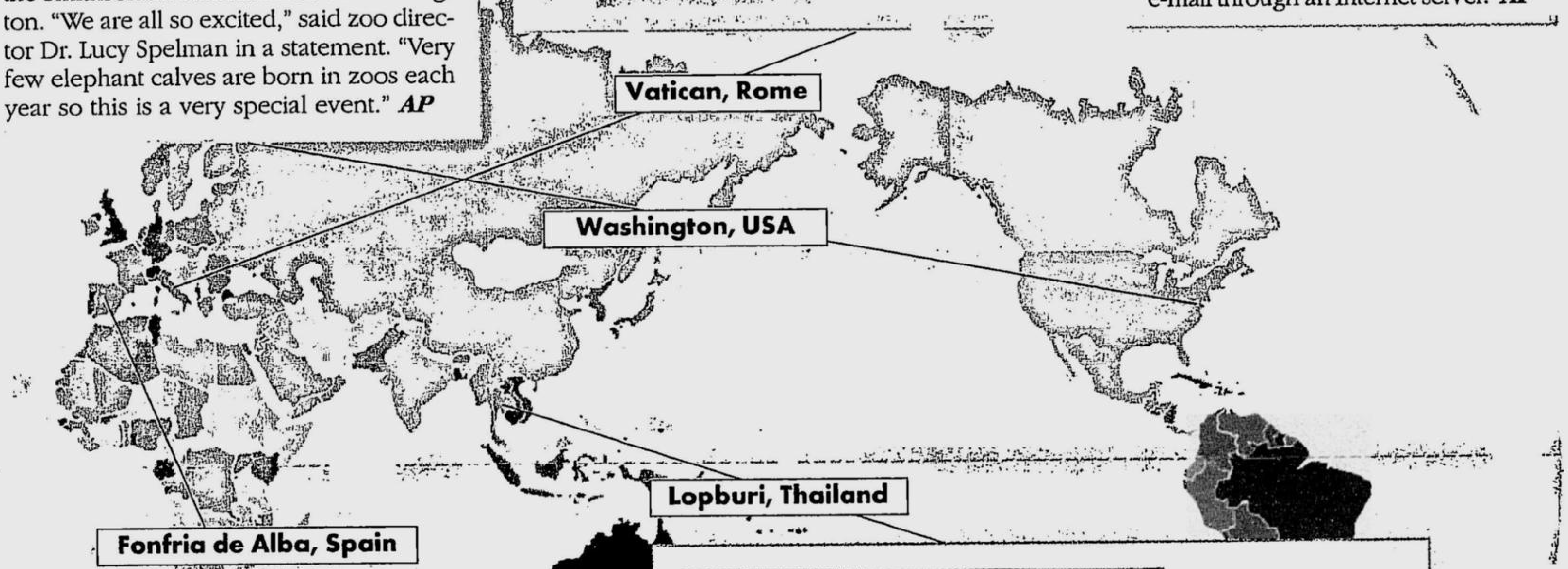
Hello Baby!

A 325-POUND male Asian elephant calf is shown shortly after its birth on Nov. 25 at the Smithsonian National Zoo in Washington. "We are all so excited," said zoo director Dr. Lucy Spelman in a statement. "Very few elephant calves are born in zoos each year so this is a very special event." ***AP***



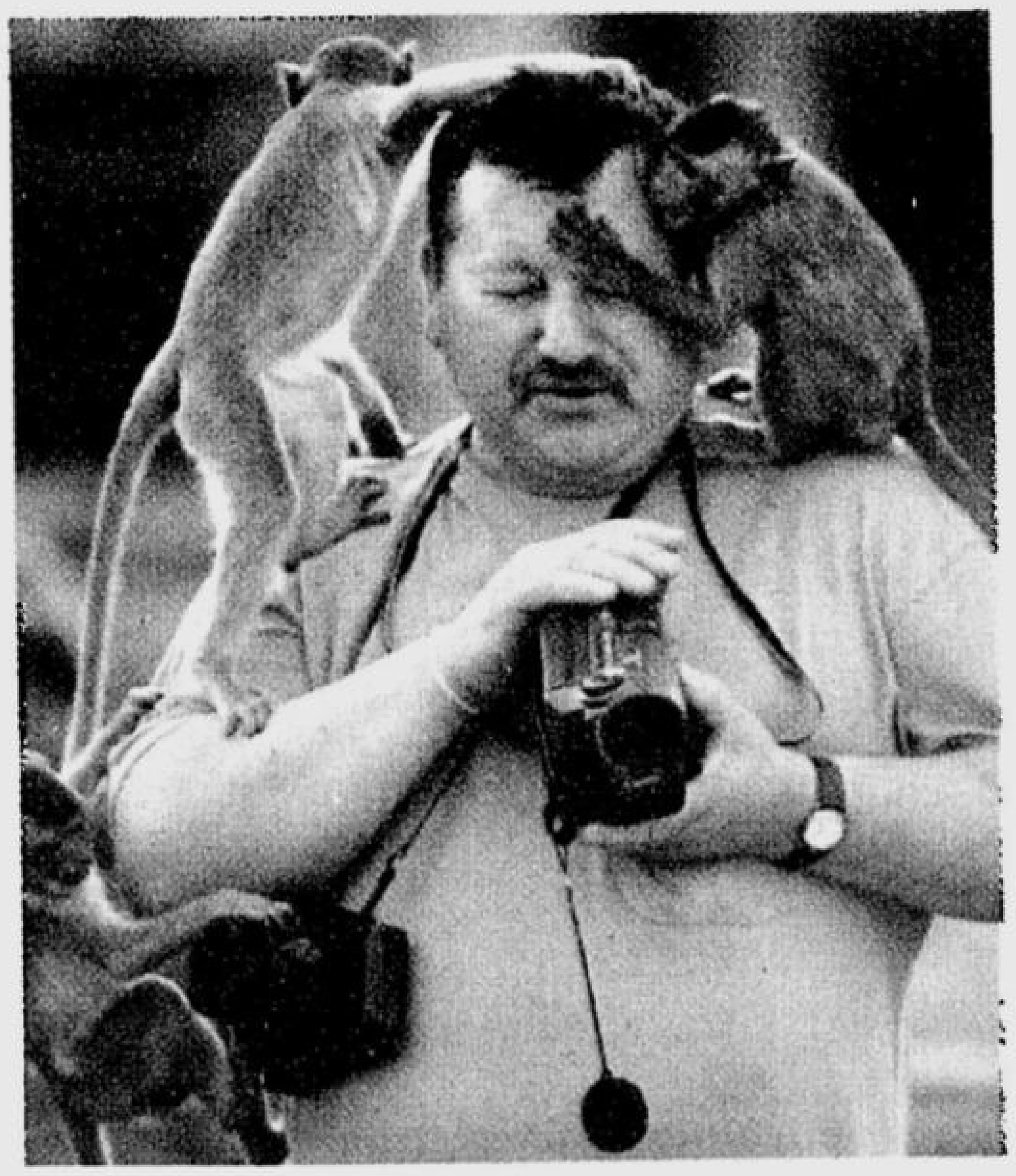
The Pope Goes POP3

POPE John Paul II uses a computer to send a special message to bishops via the Internet during an audience in the Clementine Hall at the Vatican. In an unprecedented event for the Church, the pontiff used the Internet to send an official pontifical document around the world. POP3 stands for Post Office Protocol 3 and is a system in the Internet where a person can receive or send e-mail through an Internet server. ***AP***



Animals Adopt, Too

A FEMALE dog named Linda nurses the four piglets she adopted following the loss of her recently born puppies. ***AP***



A Day for Monkeys

AN UNIDENTIFIED French tourist is mobbed by a trio of long-tailed macaques as he and other visit one of ancient temples in Thailand, on the eve of the city's annual monkey feast. The annual feast, hosted by a local businessman, is held in hopes of bringing good luck to the city. ***AP***

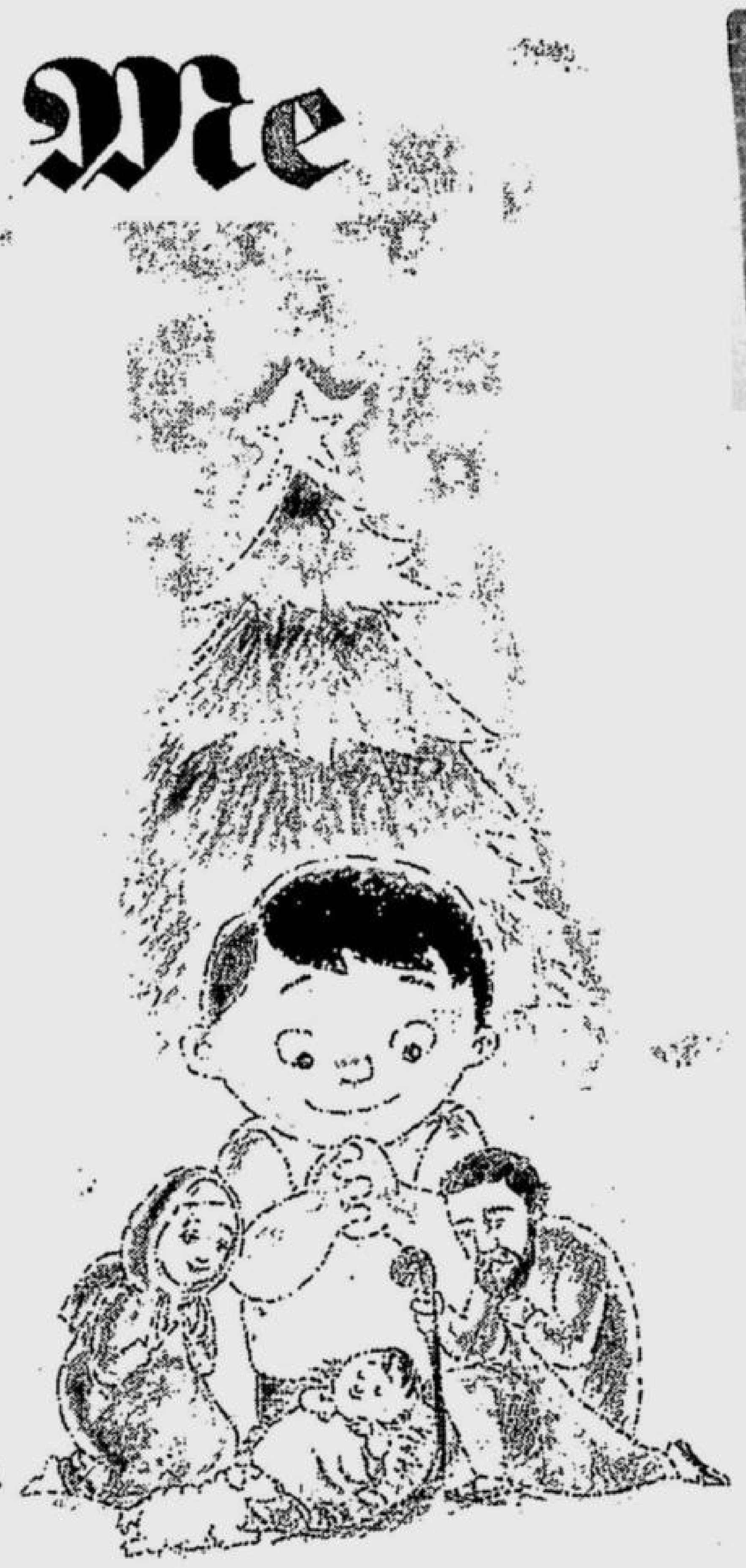
Christmas for Me

By Mark Wesley Ang
Illustration by Albert Rodriguez

Christmas for me is full of love and joy,
It's not just about receiving toys;
We celebrate it because it's the birthday of Jesus Christ
not because of Santa's surprise;
We don't celebrate it because of presents
but because of His presence.

Have a happy holiday,
and never be dismayed on Christmas Day,
For Jesus brings so much peace
And the pain inside you He will ease;
Be generous on this season,
For Christ is the reason
Man is saved and not enslaved.

As the new year comes dawning,
there is no cause for mourning;
Let's celebrate with a thankful heart
for joyful new year start!



***Mark Wesley**, 10, is a fourth-grader at the Jubilee Christian Academy.*
***Albert** is Inquirer's staff artist.*

Contest

ILLUSTRATORS' PRIZE. Would you like to illustrate a winning story? Join Philippine Board on Books for Young People's 2002 PBBY Illustrators' Prize. Entries must be based on the winning story "Uuwi Na ang Nanay Kong si Darna" by Edgar Samar. Get your copies from the PBBY secretariat. The winner will receive P25,000, a gold medal and an opportunity to be published. For more important details call up PBBY at 372-3548 or 49, or send an email to pbby@adarna.com.ph. You can also drop by their office at 73-A Scout Limbaga St., Barangay Laging Handa, Quezon City. Deadline is on Feb. 15, 2002.

Activities

DISNEY ON ICE. It's back! The yearly serving of Disney on Ice begins on Dec. 22 with loads of your favorite Disney characters. Watch Mickey, Minnie, Pinocchio, Buzz Lightyear, Woddy and characters from "Mulan," "A Bug's Life," and "The Lion King" will delight you with breathtaking skating production numbers at the Araneta Coliseum. Tickets are available at all SM Ticketnet outlets.

Museum Moments

STORYTELLING HOUR. Revel in the Christmas spirit of the holiday season with these featured storytellers: Dec. 14, Ms Marissa Bagunas, a school directress in Bacoor, Cavite, and Dec. 15, Marilyn Gutierrez, a full-time volunteer for All Together for Dignity Fourth World as they tell you wonderful stories in PBBY's Storytelling Hour every Friday at 10 a.m. on Museo Pambata, Roxas Blvd. Corner South Drive, Manila. For inquiries call up 523-1797.

OUT THERE

By Marlet D. Salazar

Got something for Out There?
Send us the info two weeks in advance. Our fax numbers are 897-4793 up to 94. Don't forget to include your contact numbers and addresses.

Cable Picks

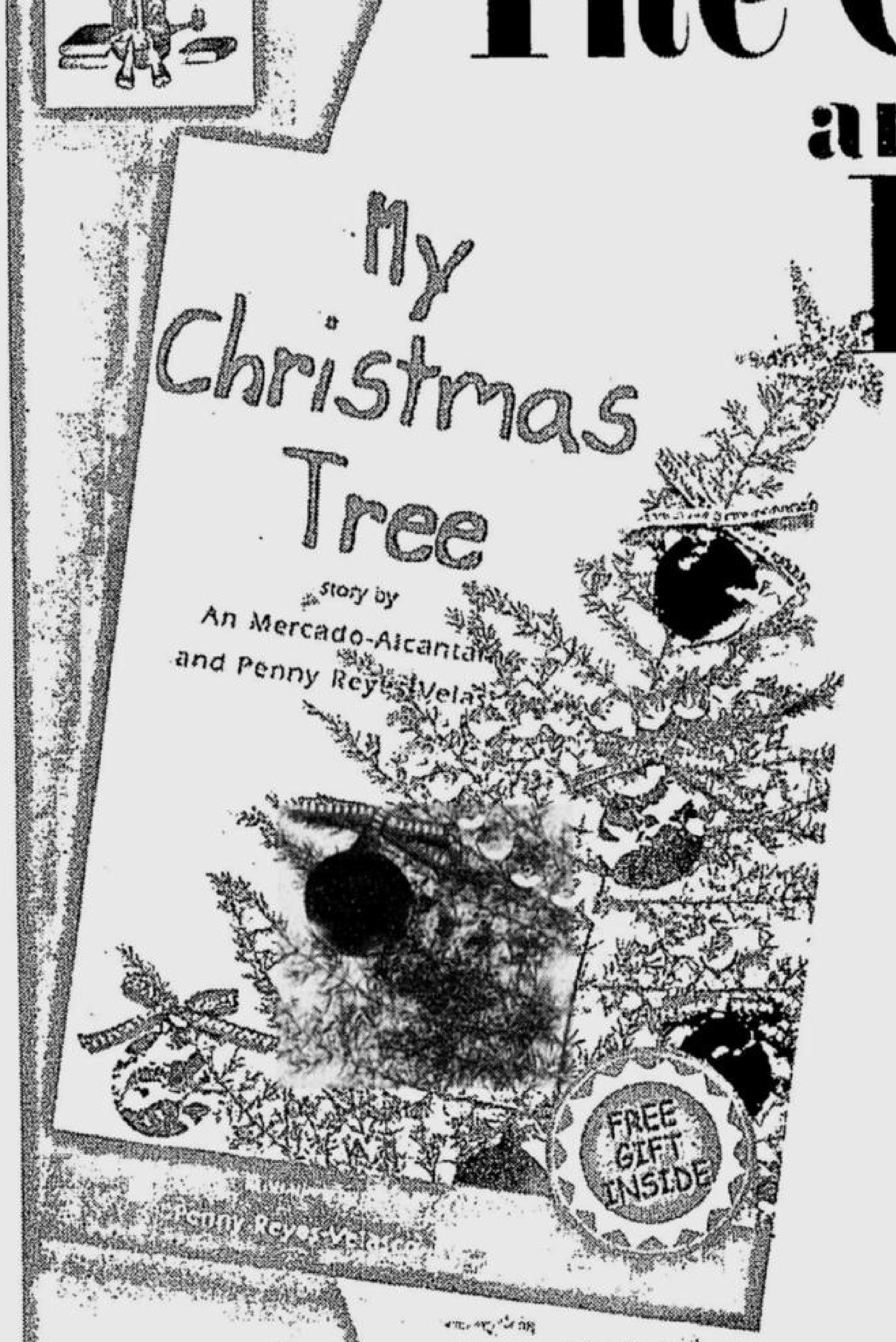
DROOPY'S MONTH. This month, Cartoon Network spotlights the famous detective, Droopy, as Character of the Month. Among his memorable gumshoe characters are Sherlock Hound, Droop Tracely and Droop McSpade. From the bottom of the ocean to the farthest reaches of outer space, Droopy guarantees to discover everything from mystery. Catch him every Sunday at 9 a.m. and 10 a.m. only on Cartoon Network.

WHAT'S ON AT NGC. Catch the exciting shows National Geographic Channel.

- **MICE'S LIFE.** Mice have been part of science since 1664 when the first experiment using a mouse took place at the Royal Society of London. Catch the mouse's crucial role in human lives on NGC's "Secret Life of Mice" tonight at 10.
- **ARTIC AVIATORS.** Author Marcel Theroux takes to subzero skies with heroic Russian pilots on NGC's "Out There" on Dec. 12 at 9 p.m. Flying in small biplanes and risking life to deliver much-needed supplies to residents of Siberia's frozen wastelands.
- **WORKING DOGS.** Follow Marty and Mudcap on Dec. 13. Marty is the star of the Mudcap Mutts, a dazzling troop made up of dogs rescued from shelters; Tasha Super Service Dog, a shepherd mix who works with 17-year-old Stephanie, pulling her wheelchair and helping her with everyday tasks. All these and more in NGC's "Dogs with Jobs" Thursdays at 9 p.m.

Iggy Ipis
BOOK REVIEWS

The Christmas Tree and The Forest King



BRRRRR...have you noticed how the days have become colder and the nights longer? The holidays are fast approaching and I bet you kids can't wait to unwrap your presents under the big and colorful Christmas tree. I'm pretty excited myself. But while we are on the subject of Christmas trees, let me first share a few recent adventures I had before we talk about the much-awaited Yuletide break.

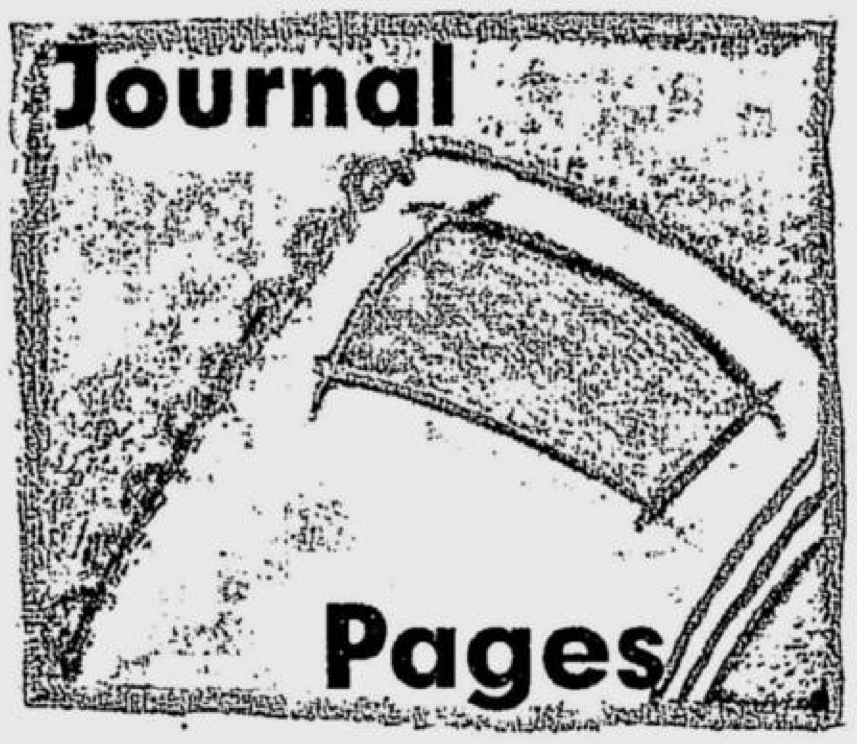
Ann Mercado-Alcantara and Penny Reyes-Velasco's **"My Christmas Tree"** is about an inquisitive little girl named Sam and her search for an answer to the question, "What makes a tree a Christmas Tree?" Sam asks a certain Mister Tree outside her window and his beautiful Sister Tree over the hill who finally erases the little girl's doubts with the poignant answers she gives her. The unique artworks in this book by Penny Reyes-Velasco made the story come to life. She actually used real flowers and leaves to do the charming illustrations! And I got to make some pressed flowers artwork of my own with the easy step-by-step instructions located at the book's last page. Cool, right?

"Are You the Forest King?" by Penny Reyes-Velasco is a video animation (in CD format) which also uses pressed flowers and leaves. It is about a boy's quest to find the real ruler of the forest. By asking different forest creatures from the little frog to the mighty eagle, he soon finds out that all things are interconnected in the web of life. I really learned a lot from the video, how we are all forest kings in our own special ways and how we should use our power to protect our forests from destruction.

With the lessons I learned from my Yuletide escapades, I'll probably never look at the trusty old Christmas tree the same way again. Merry Christmas kids!

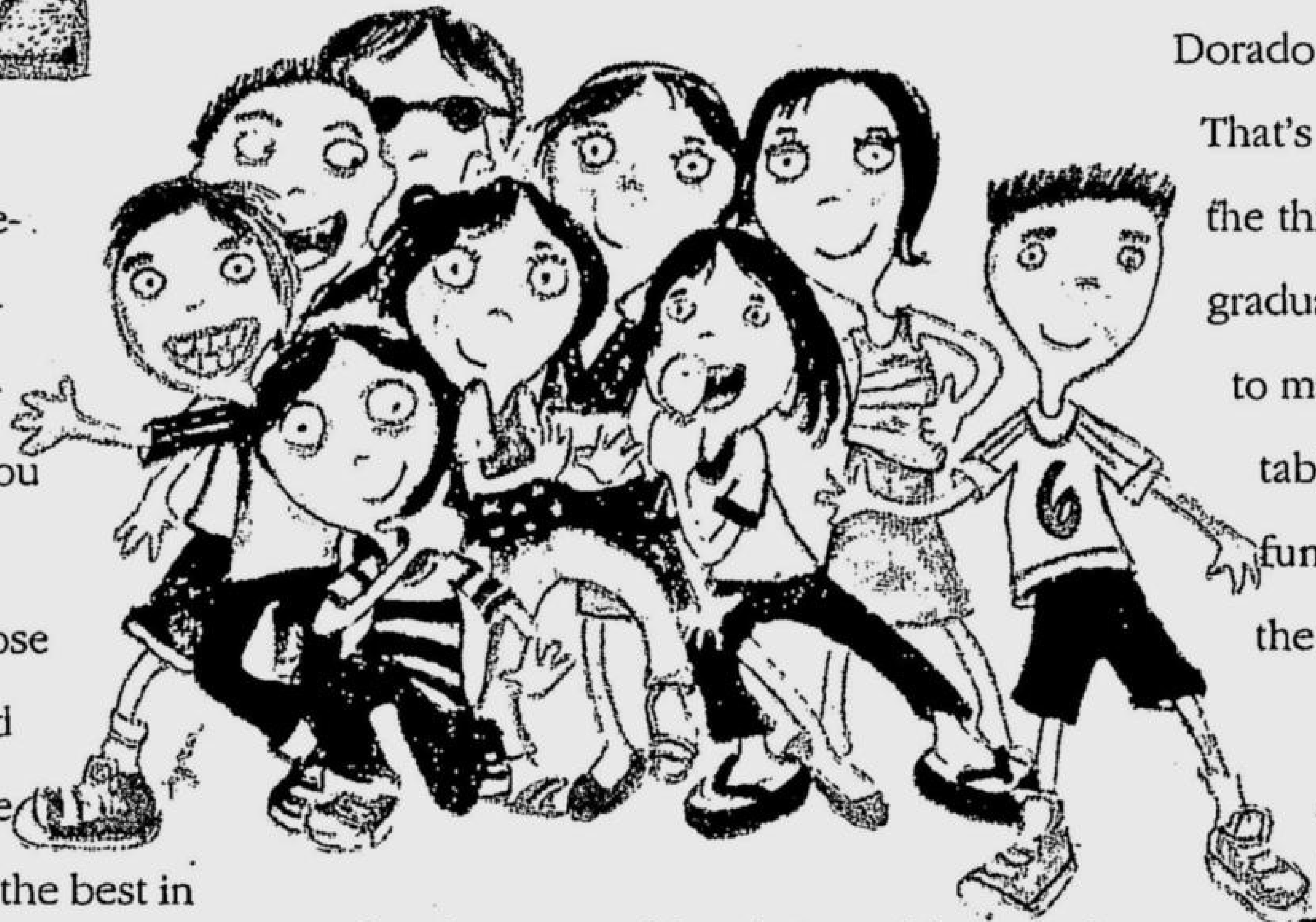
These two books are available in all Filipino Bookstore and Bookmark branches.

a video animation using pressed flowers & leaves
artwork by Penny Reyes-Velasco
ARE YOU THE FOREST KING?



Unforgettable Forgiveness

By Jenny Rose S. de Guzman
Bloomfield Academy, Las Piñas City



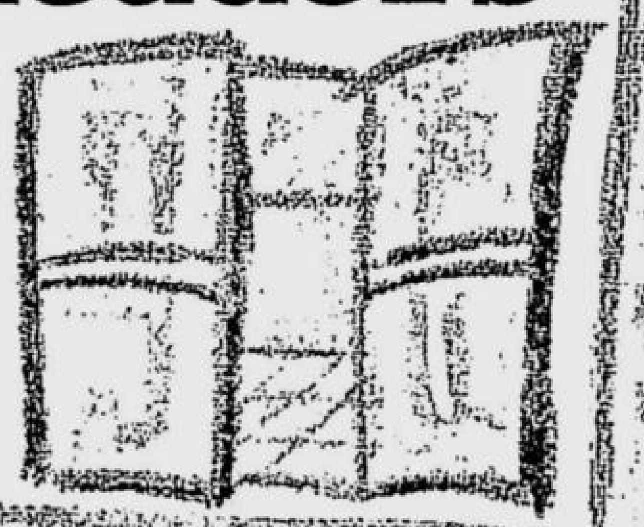
I THINK my section—Grade 6-Forgiveness here in Bloomfield Academy—is the coolest and most admirable section in the elementary department. You know why?

It is because of these things. Jose Luis, our class president, is very fond of laughing. He laughs a lot because of the jokes of my friend, Jett. Jett is the best in math in our class. But, he too is always laughing because he likes teasing Ella. They always tease her because of her hair and her crush, Ekis. Ekis is our vice president, he is known as the most sympathetic guy in our class. Then we have Bess. She is our songbird. She sings great! And we have Iñaki; he admires Krizzia the most. Krizzia has a confident friend named, Jessica. Then we have Hezron; he is one of my friends. Finally, we have our adviser Ms Jean Dorado. She is benevolent and light-hearted. That's why we like her so much. These are the things why we are cool. We are about to graduate from elementary, and we all wanted to make this school year the most unforgettable. And now we are having so much fun that we all want to be Forgiveness for the rest of our lives.

Sound Familiar?
Write down your thoughts now and send them to JI. Who knows, you might just get published!

Straight from JI Readers

You can now reach us via e-mail! Our address is **ji@inquirer.com.ph** Don't forget to include your complete name, age, snail mail address and your phone number. Hope to hear from you soon!



Thoughts on Cartoons and Studying

WHAT do you think? My other classmates say that Nick or Nickelodeon is better. Others say CN is better. I think I like both . Well, maybe I like Nick one percent more than CN. My favorite "Rugrats" is in Nick.

I also think that studying is 100 percent better than watching Nick and Cartoon Network. Most of my classmates said that studying is boring. Sometimes I feel that way too but there are times when I think it's fun. I get to learn new things, like stitching, cooking, using the computer and taking care of plants. And if you want to be what you want to be, just study about it!—**ROSE NIKKI V. JURADO**, 10, Miriam College Grade School, Quezon City

Watch Anime with Dad

I wrote because I'm concerned about those who watch a lot of anime on TV. I want them to know that there are both good and bad things about anime. I admit I also like watching anime. I think some of the stories promote good values. I also think some programs are too violent.

I believe the best thing to do about this situation is that audiences 13 years old and below should be supervised by an adult, better if they are their parents. Lastly, maybe I suggest that more kids should try reading more educational books rather than watch anime.—**KATHLEEN KAM**, 10, St. Paul College, Pasig City

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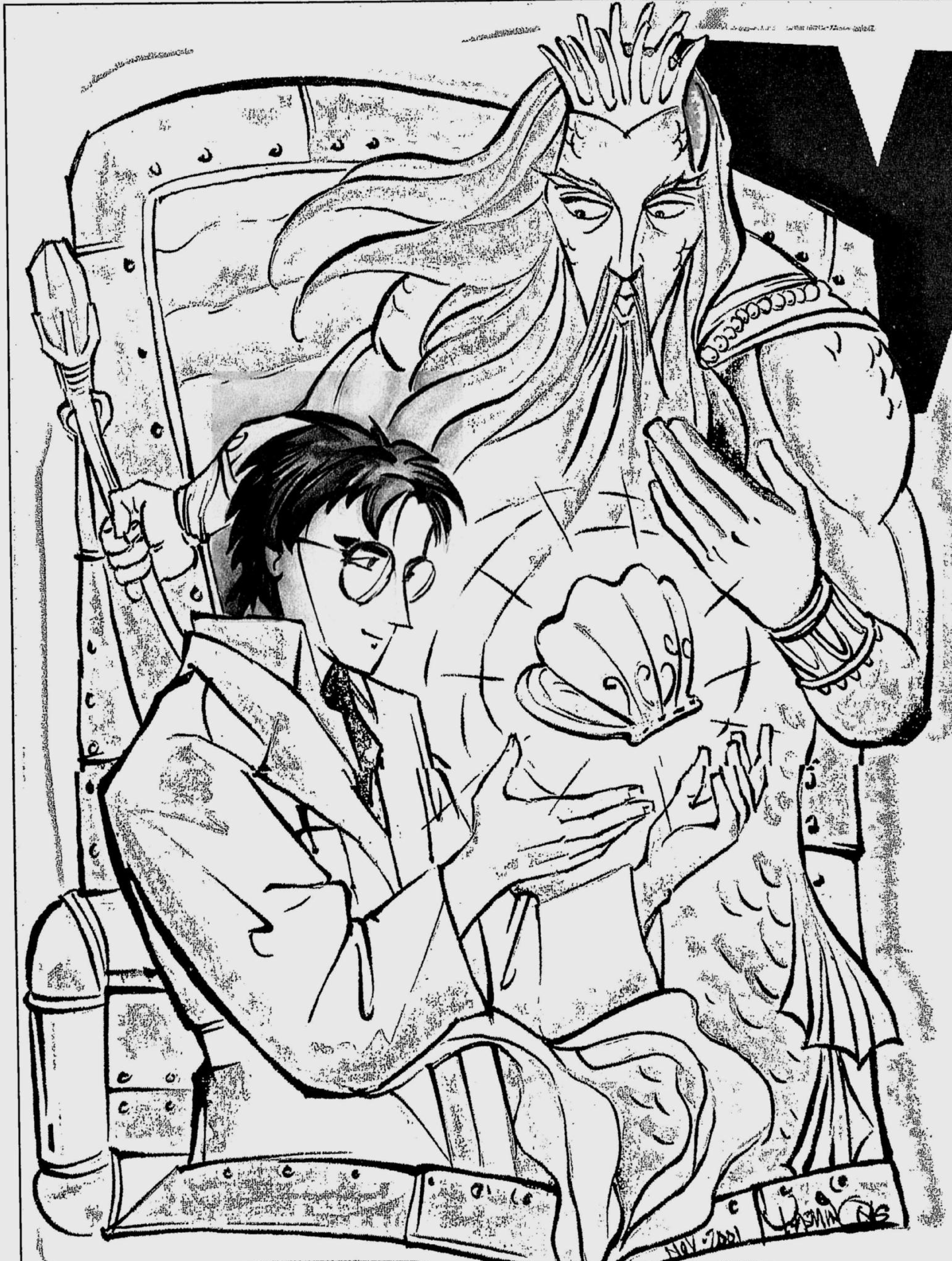

W

STORY BY
MICAH ANGELA
ILLUSTRATIONS BY

ONCE up
derwate
ple were
of the waterworld
waterworld was not a
had the power to rule
the world.

Back on land, a sc
Legardo discovere
waterworld floating a
a boat. Antonio knew
he had an inkling th
the shell of the water
out to find its secret.
fore that, he went to
tain Montaños hous
borrow a subma
called the "Mega 2000

"Thanks for lendin
me your submarine," s
Antonio.

aterworld

M. NAZAL
Y YASMIN ONG

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searching for the shell
. The shell of the
n ordinary shell. But it
over all the oceans of

entist named Antonio
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v all about shells and
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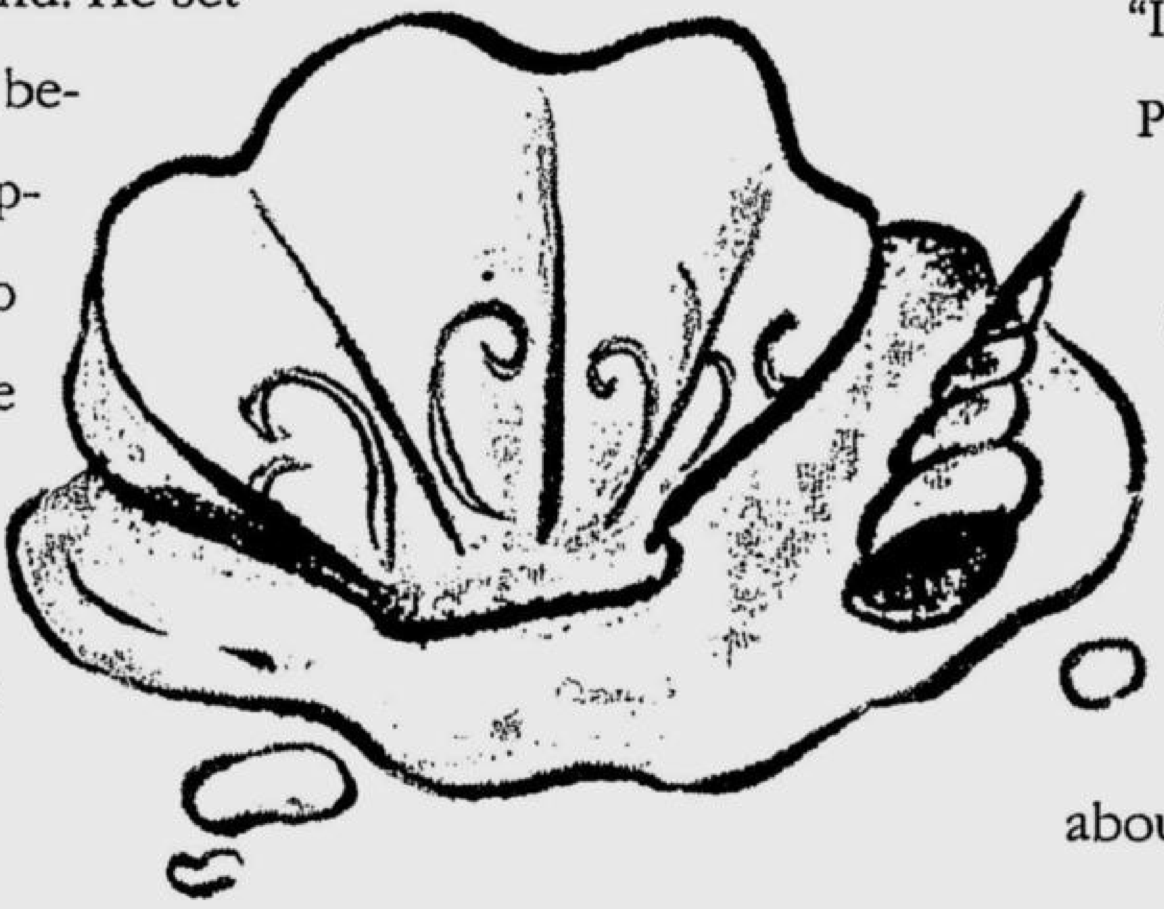
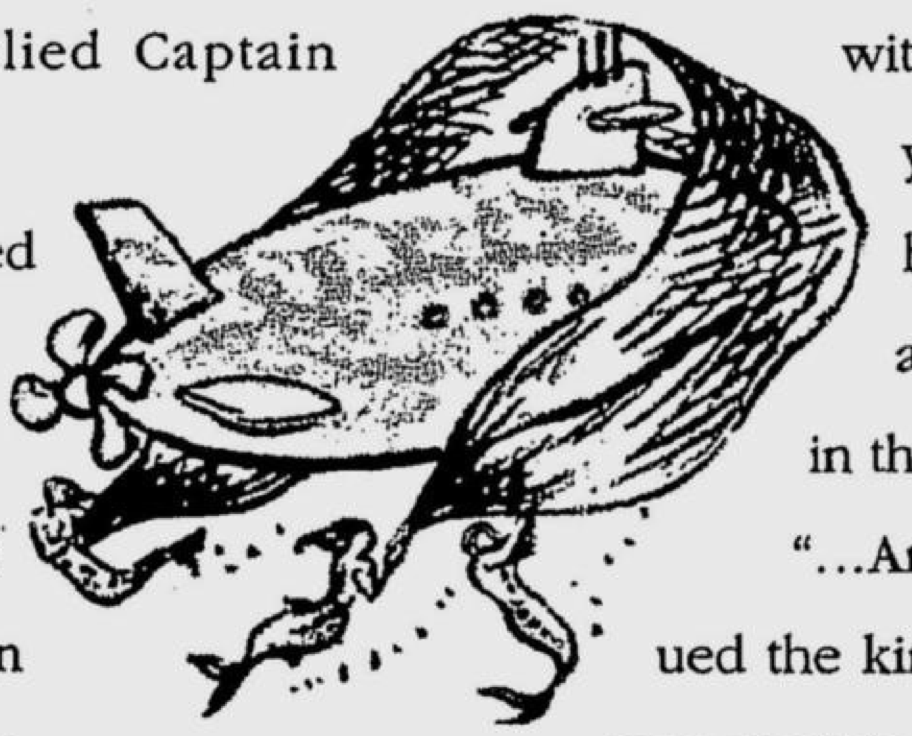
"Riding the sub under water, they saw a glowing, golden big thing on the ocean floor"



"Good luck!" replied Captain Montaño.

Antonio also invited his friends, Elena and Miguel, to come along. Elena is a submarine driver and Miguel is an engineer of submarines.



WHEN they were finally riding the sub underwater, they saw a glowing, golden big thing on the ocean floor. It was a castle surrounded by humans who did not have legs but instead swam with something that looked fishtails.

"It looks like the kingdom of the Mer-People!" Antonio said excitedly.

They brought the submarine closer to the castle. But then, the Mer-People went after them with a large net.

The great king of the Mer-People found the shell of the waterworld in Antonio's bag. The king told the story about the shell and how it was stolen by a witch named Fatimah. After 50 years of ruling the ocean with her evil powers, Fatimah died and lost the shell somewhere in the sea.

"...And then you found it," continued the king. "Now, it is your choice if you want to keep the shell and rule over all the oceans or you may give it back to us."

"I wanted to learn about the shell and your world but I think the shell belongs to you and your people," Antonio answered.

After several years, Antonio taught students about shells and he never forgot to remind them that if they want to discover something, they should respect the other worlds and bring back whatever they have taken from them.

***Micah**, 8, studies at Miriam College Grade School.*

***Yasmin** is currently taking up her masters degree in Art History at the University of the Philippines in Diliman. She is a member of Ang Ilustrador ng Kabataan.*

Butch's LOVES

At 10 years old, Butch is busy exploring the worlds of animals, science and computers

BUTCH Peroy just loves anything about science, animals and computers. If there's anything at all related to those three things, he just jumps right in and learns as much as he can.

This Grade 5 student from the Notre Dame of Mlang in Cotabato, Mindanao, went all the way to Leyte to join a science camp. "I find science very fascinating," Butch says and didn't mind at all that he had to take a nine-hour boat ride to attend the event.

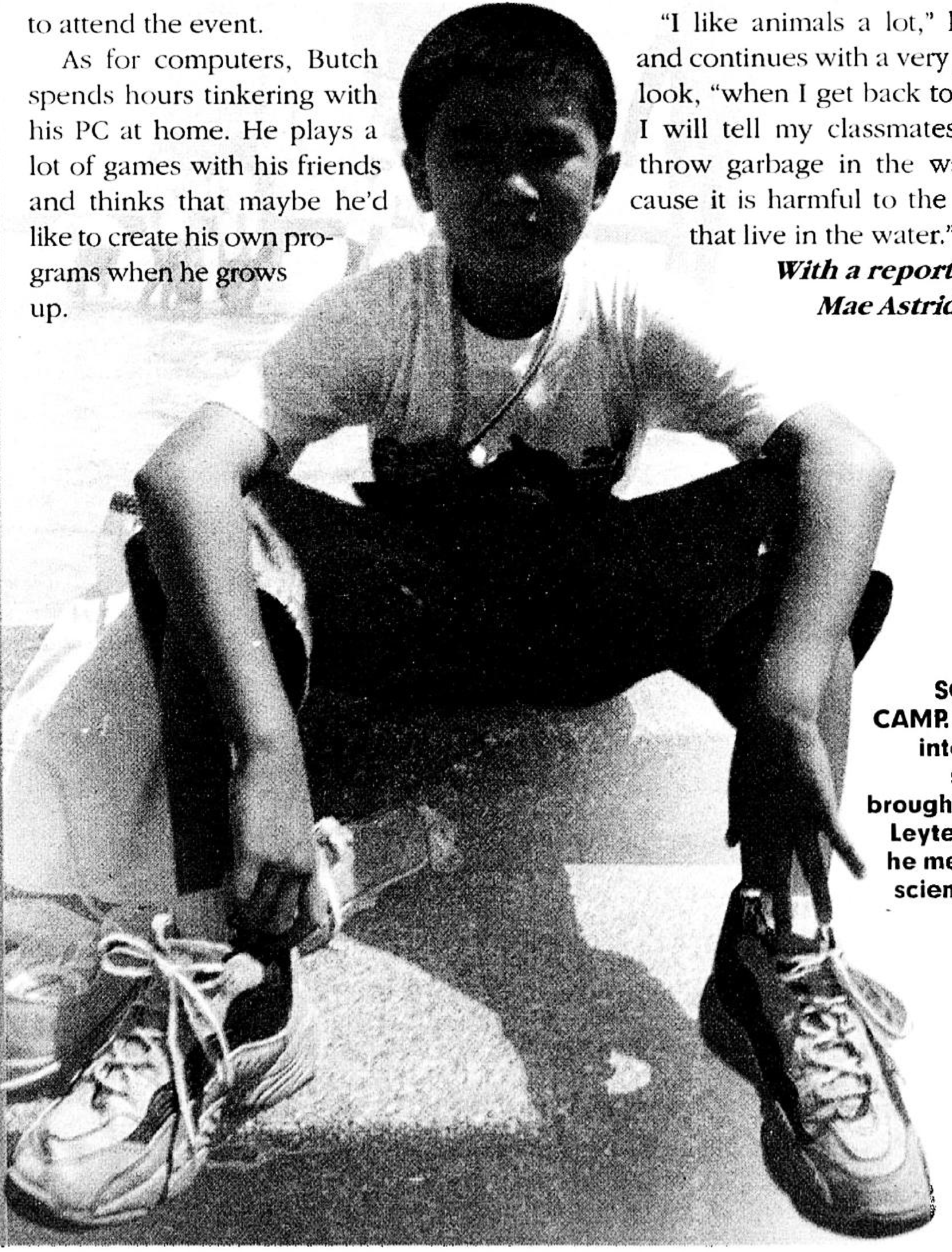
As for computers, Butch spends hours tinkering with his PC at home. He plays a lot of games with his friends and thinks that maybe he'd like to create his own programs when he grows up.

"I plan to be a computer programmer when I grow up," he declares.

Lastly, Butch also loves animals. Anything about animals fascinates him. For example, he told us about the flying fishes he saw at sea during his trip to Leyte. He also speaks fondly of his pet dog Brownie. And during the science camp, he listened with rapt attention when the topic was about marine animals.

"I like animals a lot," he says, and continues with a very pensive look, "when I get back to school, I will tell my classmates not to throw garbage in the water because it is harmful to the animals that live in the water."

With a report by
Mae Astrid Tobias



SCIENCE CAMP. Butch's interest in science brought him to Leyte where he met other science club kids.

RANDY HORMILLOSA

R U RRIFIC!

'Rrific kids are smart
'Rrific kids are fun
Some aren't in the honors list
But get their homework done

Somehow the world's
a better place
I know this much is true
Hey 'Rrific kid!
We know you're there
We love you 'cause you're you!

If you think you're `Rriffic' or know someone who is, fill out the nomination form below and send it to:

Junior Inquirer
'KIDS'R'RRIFIC' Page
Phil. Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces cor.
Yague & Mascardo Sts.
1231 Makati City

Chosen nominees will be featured on this page and will get a free **Junior Inquirer T-shirt!**

Kid 'r'rrific
nomination form

I nominate: ____________________

Age: ________

I think she's/he's 'Rrific because:
(Here's a tip! Write a detailed description of a good deed, project or accomplishment by your nominee.)

____

She/he lives at
____

and studies at
____

Her/his contact number is:
____

Sender's Name:
____

Sender's Age & School:
________, ____________________

Sender's Address:
____

Sender's Contact No.
____

The Tri-athlete's 'Other' Passion

Atom Araullo talks about his writing and his memorable trip to Africa

By Margaux Ortiz

HE IS the familiar face you see successfully reaching the finish line in the popular energy food drink commercial. Because 19-year-old Alfonso Tomas Araullo is actually an active tri-athlete (he is involved in swimming, biking and running) and a mountaineer, it's easy to believe how he seemed to finish the race with ease.

And yes, the sophomore Physics major from the University of the Philippines also writes.

"I really enjoy writing short stories and essays," says Atom. He adds that he usually gets ideas for his stories from the everyday life of a common Filipino. "These are faceless strangers we meet on the street, what they call *quiddam* in Russian."

Atom says the people we don't notice or take for granted have interesting stories to tell.

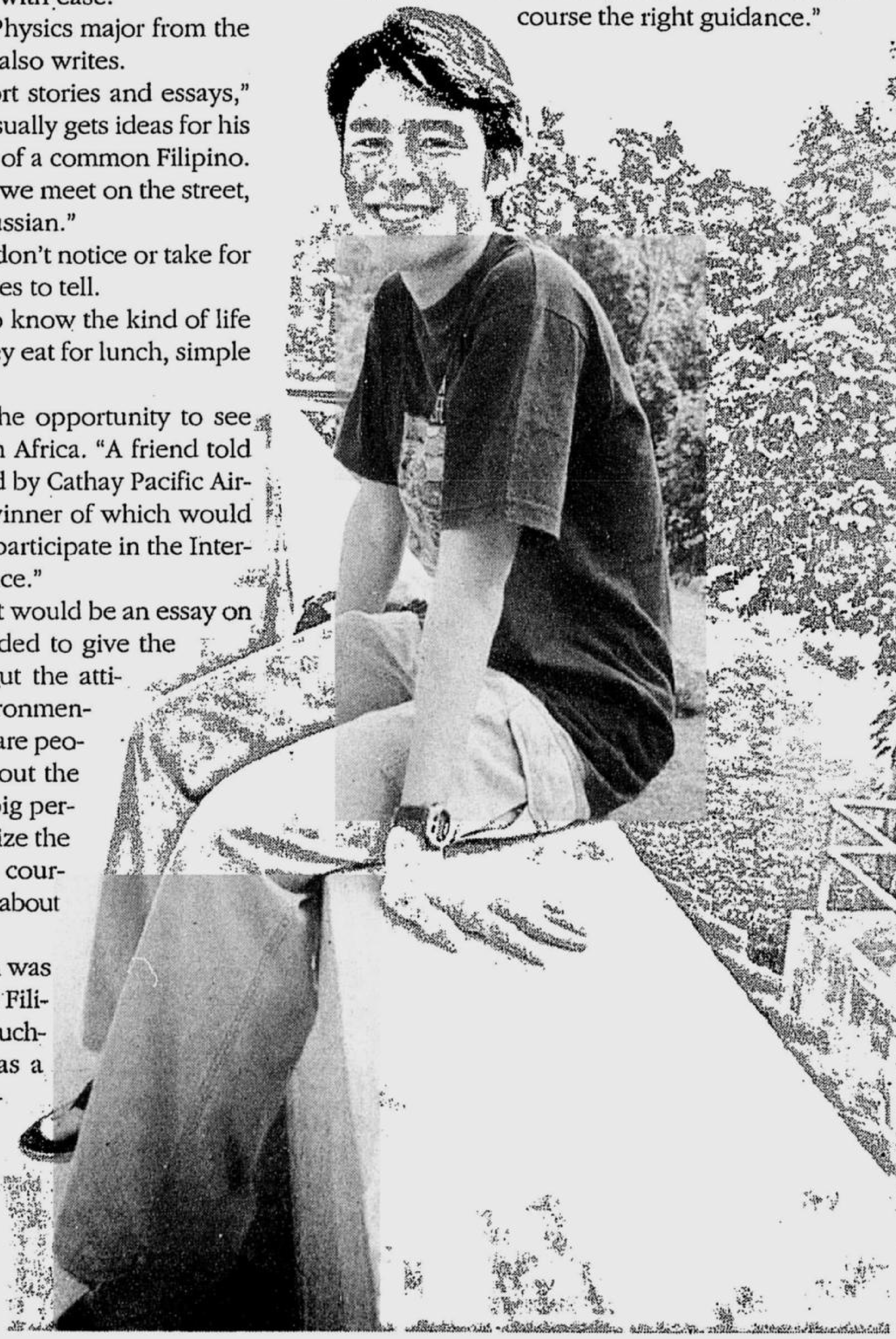
"It would be fascinating to know the kind of life these strangers lead, what they eat for lunch, simple things like that," he says.

Writing has given Atom the opportunity to see faraway places such as South Africa. "A friend told me about a contest sponsored by Cathay Pacific Airways," he relates, "and the winner of which would be sent on a trip to Africa to participate in the International Wilderness Experience."

Since the only requirement would be an essay on the environment, Atom decided to give the contest a try. He wrote about the attitudes of people toward environmental preservation. "While there are people who really don't care about the environment, there is also a big percentage of those who recognize the problem but don't have the courage or the drive to do anything about it," says Atom.

After two interviews, Atom was chosen to be among the four Filipino delegates who won the much-coveted trip to Africa! "It was a once in a lifetime experience," he smiles. "I got to meet people from different countries and I guess the friendship I established with them was the best part."

Atom has one advice for kids who wish to excel in sports, writing or just about anything in life. "You have to have dedication, perseverance and discipline," he relates. "If you are interested in a particular field, all you need is the passion to do it and of course the right guidance."



NOT JUST AN ATHLETE. Atom is also at home at the UP Main Library.

JOHNNY VILLENA

Do you know a grown-up who

- is fun to be with
- has an exciting job
- keeps an amazing hobby
- is all of the above???

If you know a grown-up whom all kids will love, give him or her the stamp:

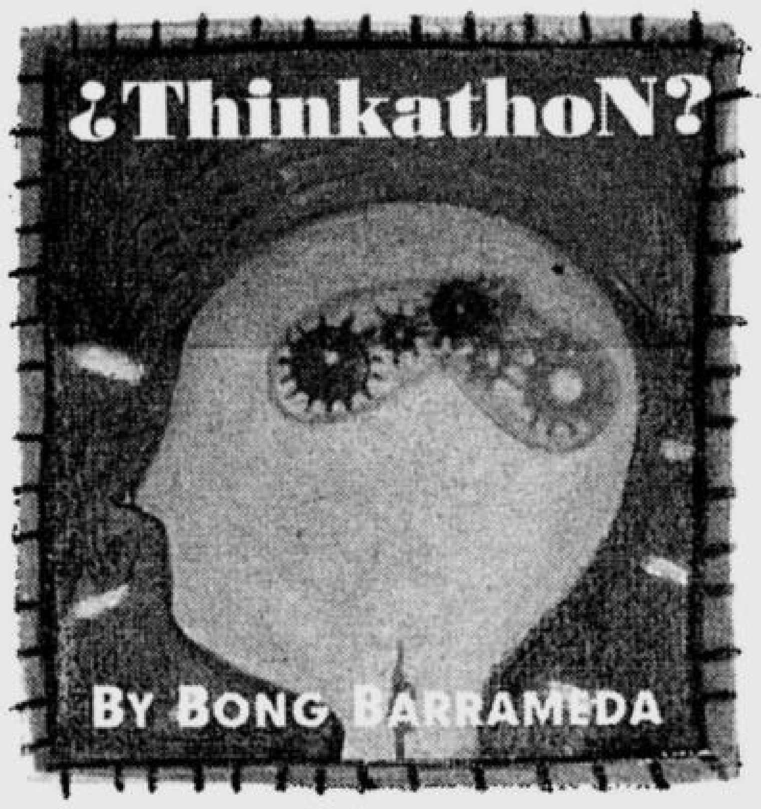
A.K.A. COOL

Just fill out the nomination form below and tell us why your fave grown-up is the absolute coolest. If your nominee is chosen, ***YOU'LL*** *get a free JI T-shirt! Now that's really cool.*

A.K.A. COOL
is an 'adult known as cool'
They're the folks
in our own family
Or the people
we meet in school.

I nominate ________________.
He/She is ____ years old and is my ______________________.
Here are five super solid reasons why I think you should write about him/her:
1)______________________;
2)______________________;
3)______________________;
4)______________________;
and
5)______________________.

My nominee lives at__________
______________________.
Give him/her a call at__________
______________ or send him/her an e-mail
at______________.
By the way, I'm______________
______________________.
I'm _____ years old.
My address is
______________________.
You may call me at
______________________.



HARRY POTTER Quiz—2

HERE'S the sequel to last week's 'Harry Potter Quiz.' Can you conjure up another perfect score in this mental Quidditch?

1. On what street in Surrey did Harry live?
- ● Prism Road
- ● Primary Avenue
- ● Privet Drive

2. At what age did Harry find out he was a young wizard?
- ● 11
- ● 13
- ● 15

3. What is the name of Harry's dormitory at Hogwarts Castle?
- ● Ravenclaw
- ● Gryffindor
- ● Hufflepuff

4. What's the first name of Professor Dumbledore, the headmaster of Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry?
- ● Albus
- ● Aldus
- ● Algus

5. What kinds of creatures run the Gringotts bank?
- ● Elves
- ● Goblins
- ● Cats

6. How do students at Hogwarts communicate with the outside world?
- ● By telepathy
- ● Trained owls carry their messages
- ● By magic mail

7. Who is Harry's best buddy whom he met aboard Hogwarts Express?
- ● Ron
- ● Jerry
- ● Tom

8. What's the name of the vicious three-headed dog that guards the hiding place of the Sorcerer's Stone?
- ● Humboldt
- ● Cerberus
- ● Fluffy

9. What evil wizard was responsible for the scar on Harry's forehead?
- ● Ivan Ooze
- ● Master Dementor
- ● Lord Voldemort

10. What does a Wingardium Leviosa spell do?
- ● Resurrects a dead animal
- ● Causes a feather to rise in the air
- ● Puts someone to sleep

11. What's the most important ball in Quidditch?
- ● Quaffle
- ● Snitch
- ● Bludger

12. What are the names of Harry's parents?
- ● Petunia and Arthur
- ● Lily and James
- ● Hillary and Homer

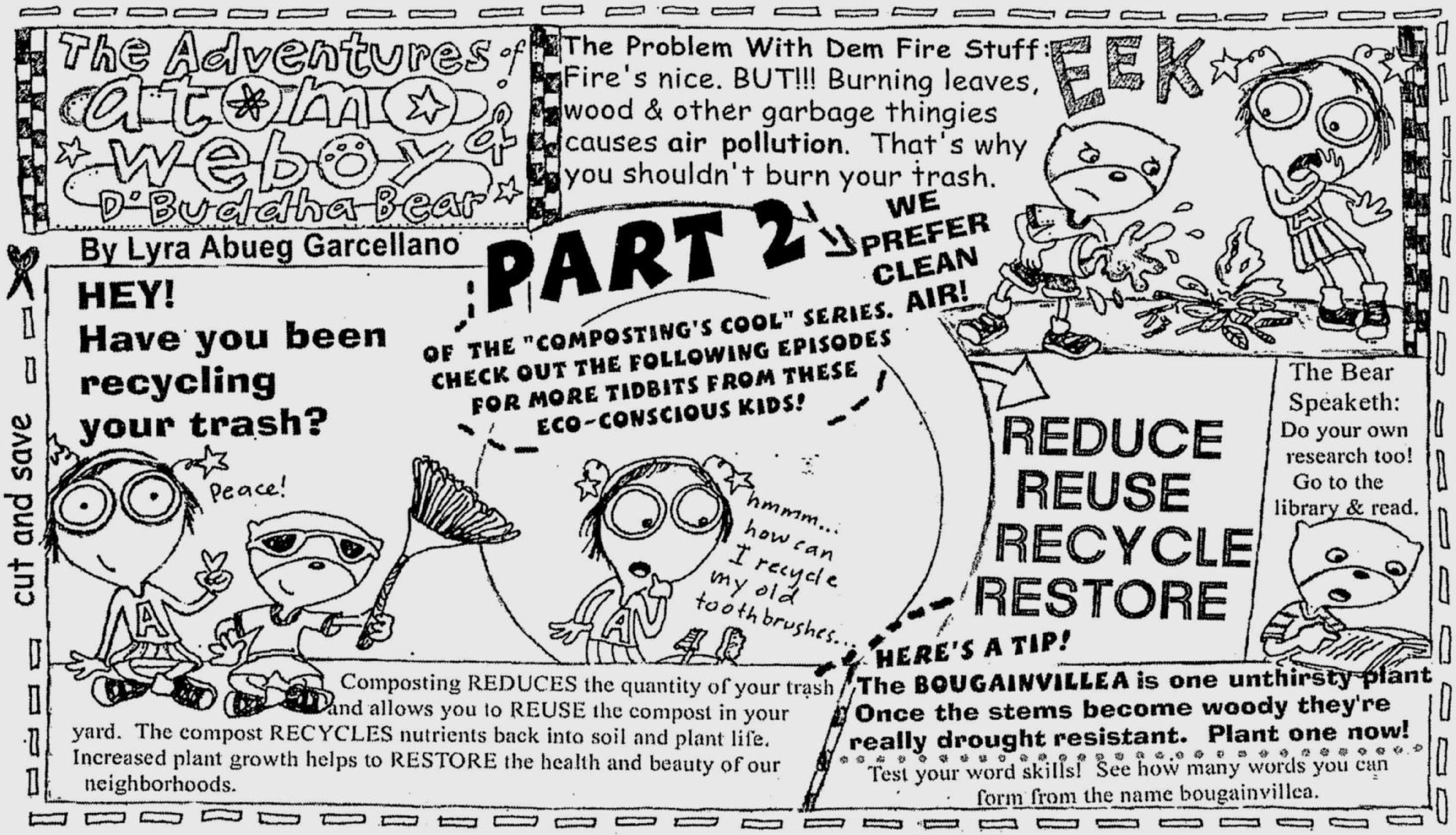
Answers :

1. Privet Drive
2. 11
3. Gryffindor
4. Albus
5. Goblins
6. Trained owls carry their messages
7. Ron (full name: Ronald Weasley)
8. Fluffy
9. Lord Voldemort
10. Causes a feather to rise in the air
11. Snitch
12. Lily and James

Ratings :

superbrain!
excellent!
good!

11 - 12 9 - 10 6 - 8


The Adventures of atom & weboy & D'Buddha Bear
cut and save
Peace!
hmmm... how can I recycle my old toothbrushes...
EEK
WE PREFER CLEAN AIR!

By Lyra Abueg Garcellano

The Problem With Dem Fire Stuff: Fire's nice. BUT!!! Burning leaves, wood & other garbage thingies causes **air pollution**. That's why you shouldn't burn your trash.

HEY! Have you been recycling your trash?

PART 2 OF THE "COMPOSTING'S COOL" SERIES. CHECK OUT THE FOLLOWING EPISODES FOR MORE TIDBITS FROM THESE ECO-CONSCIOUS KIDS!

REDUCE
REUSE
RECYCLE
RESTORE

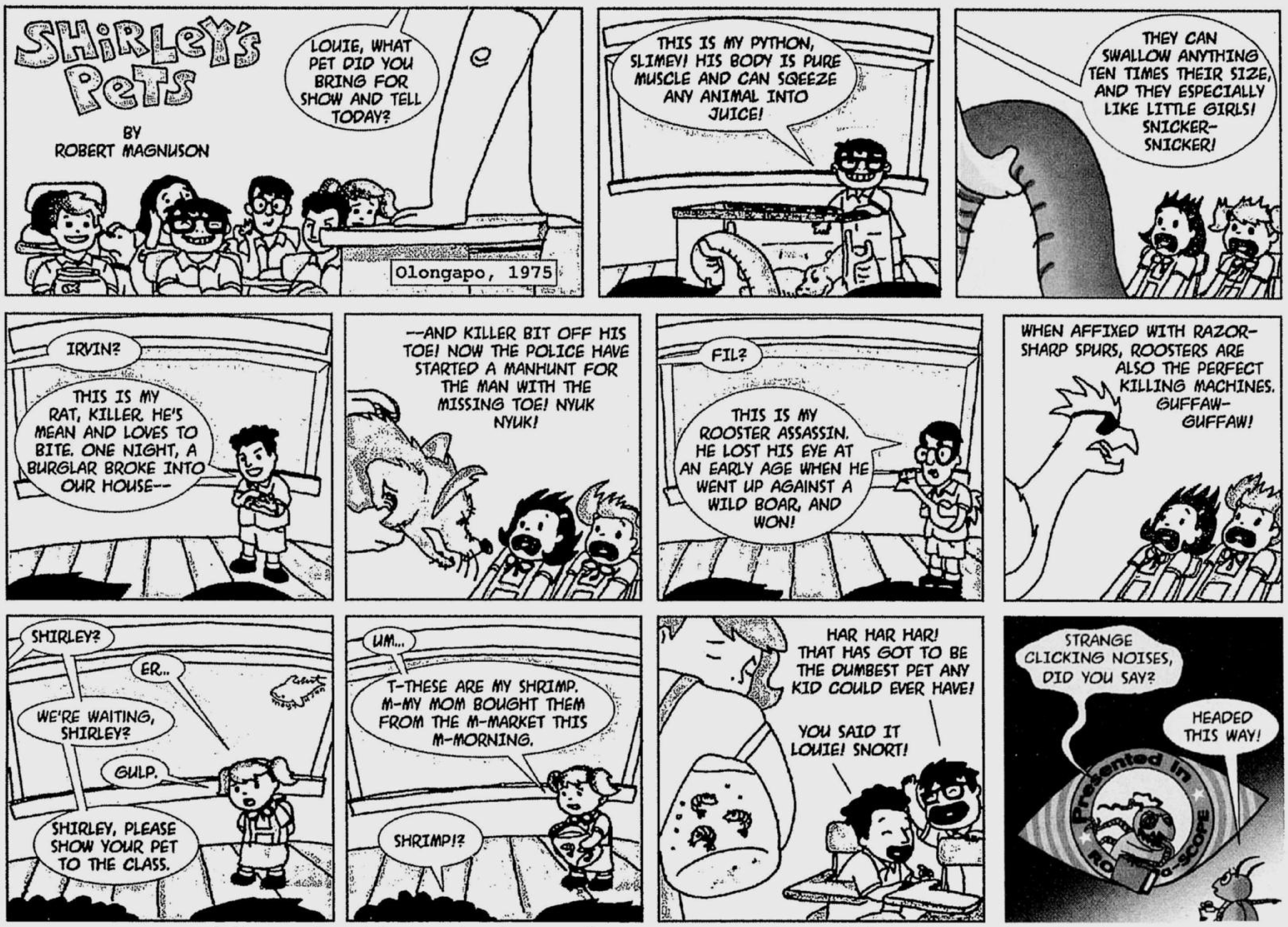
The Bear Speaketh: Do your own research too! Go to the library & read.

Composting REDUCES the quantity of your trash and allows you to REUSE the compost in your yard. The compost RECYCLES nutrients back into soil and plant life. Increased plant growth helps to RESTORE the health and beauty of our neighborhoods.

HERE'S A TIP!

The BOUGAINVILLEA is one unthirsty plant Once the stems become woody they're really drought resistant. Plant one now!

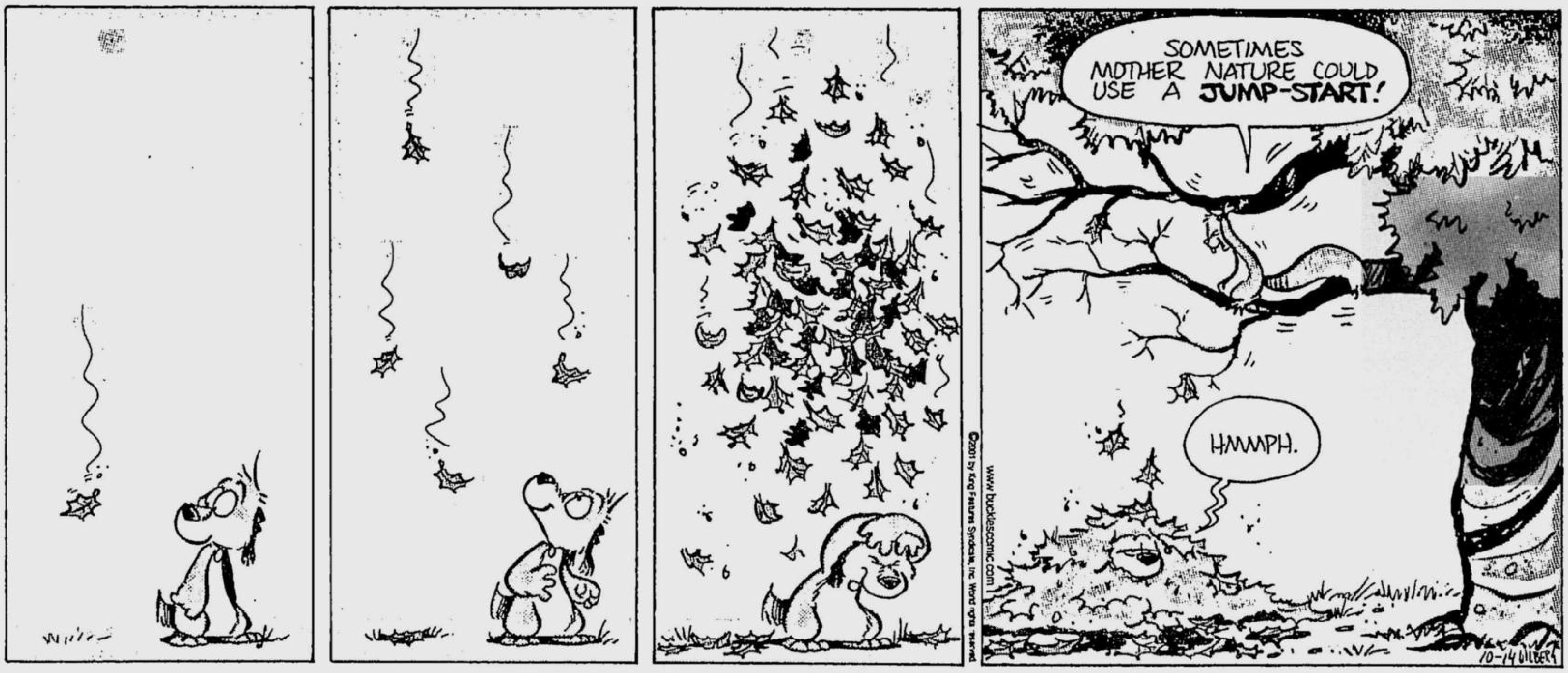
Test your word skills! See how many words you can form from the name bougainvillea.


SHIRLEY'S PETS
BY ROBERT MAGNUSON
LOUIE, WHAT PET DID YOU BRING FOR SHOW AND TELL TODAY?
Olongapo, 1975
THIS IS MY PYTHON, SLIMEY! HIS BODY IS PURE MUSCLE AND CAN SQEEZE ANY ANIMAL INTO JUICE!
THEY CAN SWALLOW ANYTHING TEN TIMES THEIR SIZE, AND THEY ESPECIALLY LIKE LITTLE GIRLS! SNICKER-SNICKER!
IRVIN?
THIS IS MY RAT, KILLER. HE'S MEAN AND LOVES TO BITE. ONE NIGHT, A BURGLAR BROKE INTO OUR HOUSE--
--AND KILLER BIT OFF HIS TOE! NOW THE POLICE HAVE STARTED A MANHUNT FOR THE MAN WITH THE MISSING TOE! NYUK NYUK!
FIL?
THIS IS MY ROOSTER ASSASSIN. HE LOST HIS EYE AT AN EARLY AGE WHEN HE WENT UP AGAINST A WILD BOAR, AND WON!
WHEN AFFIXED WITH RAZOR-SHARP SPURS, ROOSTERS ARE ALSO THE PERFECT KILLING MACHINES. GUFFAW-GUFFAW!
SHIRLEY?
ER...
WE'RE WAITING, SHIRLEY?
GULP.
SHIRLEY, PLEASE SHOW YOUR PET TO THE CLASS.
UM...
T-THESE ARE MY SHRIMP. M-MY MOM BOUGHT THEM FROM THE M-MARKET THIS M-MORNING.
SHRIMP!?
HAR HAR HAR! THAT HAS GOT TO BE THE DUMBEST PET ANY KID COULD EVER HAVE!
YOU SAID IT LOUIE! SNORT!
STRANGE CLICKING NOISES, DID YOU SAY?
HEADED THIS WAY!
Presented in ROBO-SCOPE

Visit us at shirleyspets.cheesedip.com or Send email to shifu@animail.net

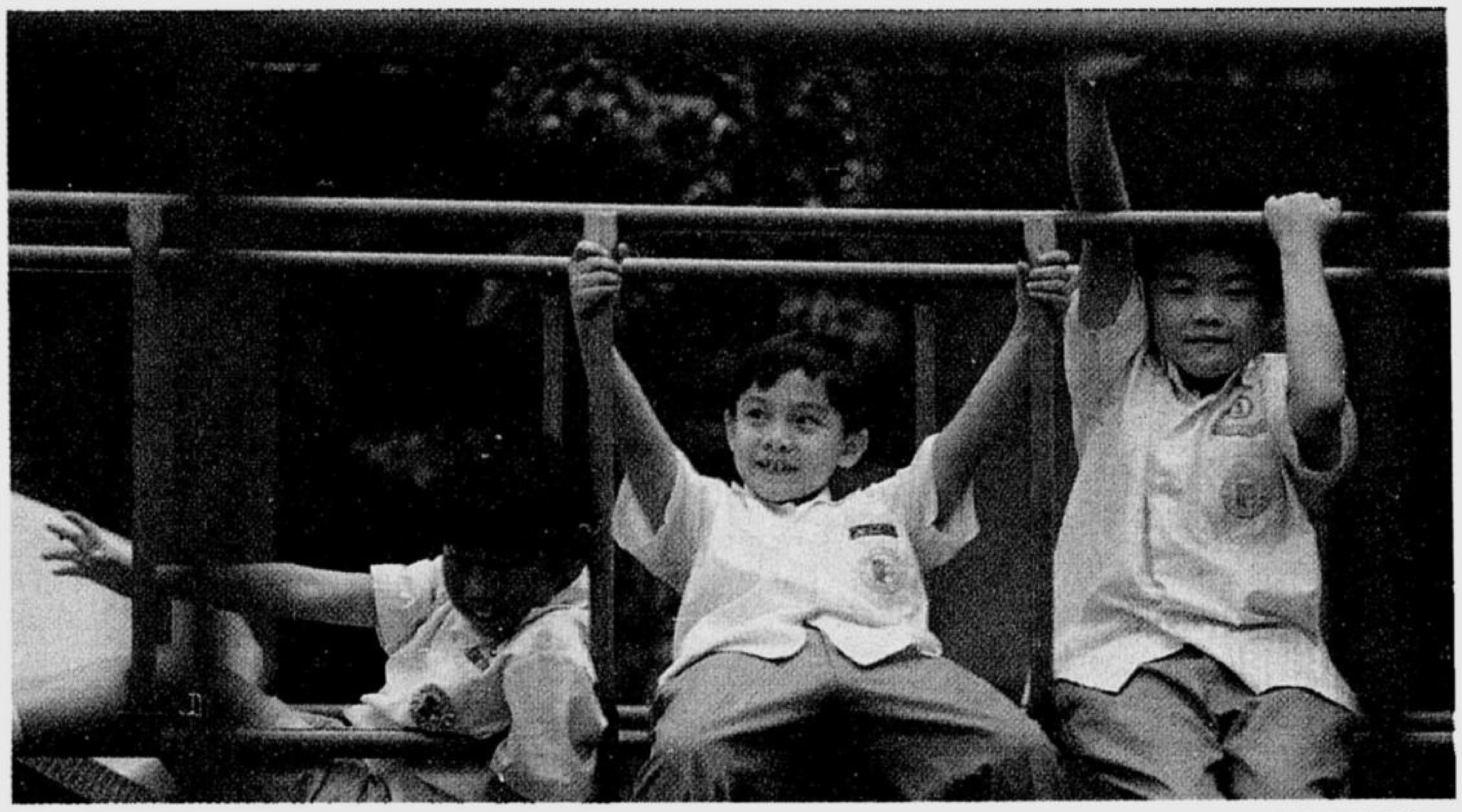
BUCKLES

BY DAVID GILBERT


SOMETIMES MOTHER NATURE COULD USE A JUMP-START!
HMMPH.
©2001 by King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.
www.bucklescomic.com
10-14 GILBERT

Big Cera's Creators

(from page 1)



PLAYBREAK. Gabe, Matthew and Bart have fun after the interview.

MIKE ALQUINTO

teacher. Matthew even had a plastic envelope full of new drawings.

Cera, like her creators, has her own special talents. She can crawl, walk and do tricks like breaking rocks.

Cera also is fun to play ball with just like another of her co-creators, Gabe Penaloza, who plays soccer.

Gabe's Pet

Gabe's pet in real life is fish which he cares for by feeding them everyday. But unlike Cera who eats 100 bundles of grass, leaves and spinach a day, Gabe declared, "I hate vegetables, I hate vegetables, I hate vegetables!"

"Maybe that's why you're so short," Bart retorted. When asked if he eats spinach, Bart said, "I haven't even seen spinach." He does however eat broccoli.

"Corn," Matthew announced his favorite veggie.

When their class won first prize, Bart said he felt "very happy."

"Excited!" Gabe and Matthew described their feelings.

When we grow up

The rest of the original nursery class must have been very happy and excited too, but they couldn't tell us in person since they were in class during the interview.

The rest of Cera's creators consisted of Hadley Ang, Javi Benitez, Stefano Castillo, Joshua Co, Paolo Coronel, Kirk Dychiao, Benedict Dytoc, Vincent Floro, Leandre Laddaran, Treves Li, Jon Ridge Ong, Jiggy Santos, Charles Syjueco, Kyle Tan, Raymond Tan, Paolo Tiu, Andrew Yu, and Justin Yu.

Are any of them working on new books? "Small books for reading," Bart replied.

Matthew has ambitions to be a scientist when he grows up. Bart wasn't decided yet. "Question mark," he answered. Gabe agreed. "Question mark, question mark, question mark," he said with a shrug.

There's plenty of time to wonder about the future. Meanwhile there's soccer, drawing, pet fish and school to attend to. What happened to Cera? Eventually she grew too big for the garage and moved out, but her owners kept a drawing on the wall to remember her by.

As for other wanna-be writers, Bart advises, "Let your imagination run."

I wonder what adventures the Xavier boys will think up next for Cera out in the big, wide world... Maybe you could give your own imagination a whirl.

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